

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Features, facts and photos

SHOOT!

15p

20th MAY, 1978

WE BEGIN OUR
WEEK-BY-WEEK

REVIEW
OF THE
1977-78
SEASON

*Notts County
defender Brian
Stubbs (stripes) and
Frank Worthington of
Bolton Wanderers in a
mid-air clash.*

ALL THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE RESULTS

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Big battles in store for Ally's Army

THE annual British Championship begins on Saturday, and this year an extra ingredient will ensure the games between the four Home nations are even more competitive and hard-fought than usual. As Scotland are the only country to have qualified for the World Cup Finals in Argentina, the other three will seek to compensate for their failure by pulling out all the stops to defeat the Scots. This, of course, has made Ally MacLeod's 'Army' double determined to gain a third successive Championship win to reinforce their confident boast that they can become the very first European nation to win the coveted gold cup on South American soil. Here, we prime readers with information concerning the tournament, past and present, followed later in the issue by previews of forthcoming games by stars likely to be involved.

David Gregory
EDITOR

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Wales v England

NINIAN PARK, CARDIFF
Saturday, May 13th

Wales' victory at Wembley against England a year ago, was not only their first victory at the famous Stadium in 13 visits, but was also only their second post-War victory v England.

A penalty from Leighton James won the Wembley game for Wales. The other Welsh success came at Ninian Park, Cardiff, on October 22nd, 1955, when Derek Tapscott and Cliff Jones scored the goals in a fine 2-1 victory.

The most successful period for Wales was between 1933 and 1938 when they won four matches — 1933 (Wrexham 2-1), 1936 (Wolverhampton 2-1), 1936 (Cardiff 2-1) and 1938 (Cardiff 4-2).

England's biggest victory came at Cardiff in 1896 when the great forward Steve Bloomer scored five, while Wales' highest aggregate victory against England was back in 1882 when they won 5-3.



MAIN PICTURE...
John Charles of
Wales (right) with
Scotland's John
Greig and Ron
Yates, October,
1964.



Players with five or more goals in a Championship match.

- 6 Joe Bambrick (N. Ireland) v Wales in Belfast, 1-2-1930.
- 5 Willie Hall (England) v N. Ireland at Old Trafford, 16-11-1938.
- 5 Steve Bloomer (England) v Wales at Cardiff, 16-3-1896.
- 5 Charles Heggie (Scotland) v Ireland in Belfast, 20-3-1886.
- 5 H. A. Haighton (England) v Ireland in Belfast, 18-2-1882.

Britain's top ten goalscorers since 1946

	Goals	Caps
Bobby Charlton (England)	49	106
Jimmy Greaves (England)	44	57
Tom Finney (England)	30	76
Nat Lofthouse (England)	30	33
Denis Law (Scotland)	30	55
Geoff Hurst (England)	24	49
Stan Mortensen (England)	23	25
Trevor Ford (Wales)	23	38
Lawrie Reilly (Scotland)	22	38
Ivor Allchurch (Wales)	22	68

Top scorers for Northern Ireland are Johnny Crossan and Jimmy McIlroy with 10 goals each.
(Including Championship and matches v foreign opposition)

Northern Ireland v Scotland

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW
Saturday, May 13th

Northern Ireland's scheduled "home" fixture against World Cup-bound Scotland being switched to Hampden this Saturday, came as a bitter disappointment to Irish fans, who have not seen the dark blue shirts in action at Windsor Park since 1970.

However, although five of Ire-

land's eight post-War wins over Scotland have been at the Belfast venue, in 1947 (2-0), 1955 (2-1), 1963 (2-1), 1965 (3-2), and 1967 (1-0), the Irishmen's three Glasgow triumphs of the '70's, 1-0 in 1971 and 1974, and 2-1, in 1973, make them by far the most successful visiting British nation to grace Hampden this decade.

England v Northern Ireland

WEMBLEY
Tuesday, May 16th

Northern Ireland will be chasing their third post-War victory at Wembley. The last occasion was on May 23rd, 1972, when Terry Neill scored the only goal of the match. Before that the previous Irish success at the Stadium came on November 6th, 1957, when they won 3-2, McIlroy, McCrory and Simpson scoring for them.

England have twice scored more than seven goals since World War Two. On November

16th, 1949, England won 9-2 at Maine Road with Jack Rowley scoring four and on November 20th, 1963, at Wembley, England hammered Northern Ireland 8-3 with Jimmy Greaves hitting four.

The interesting facts about these games were that at Maine Road, Jack Rowley was making his debut in a Championship game and that the Wembley match in 1963 was the first full international under the Wembley floodlights.



LEFT . . .
November 6th, 1957 — Northern Ireland beat England 3-2 at Wembley. Here, McIlroy scores for Ireland.
RIGHT . . . Denis Law and Pat Jennings — the most-capped players of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Scotland v Wales

HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW
Wednesday, May 17th

Will it be 11th time lucky for Wales? Not since October 3rd, 1964, when two goals by Ken Leek and one by Wyn Davies gave Wales a 3-2 victory have the Welsh beaten the Scots. Incidentally, Wyn Davies is the only member of that Welsh team still playing League soccer.

Since that victory, Scotland have won six with the other matches drawn in the Home Championship.

Yet Wales won the first two post-War Championship matches

between the two countries, 3-1 at Wrexham on October 19th, 1946, and 2-1 at Hampden Park on November 12th, 1947. Trevor Ford, one of Wales' finest-ever centre-forwards, scored in both games.

The only time Wales have scored more than three goals against Scotland was on October 26th, 1932, when Wales won 5-2 in Edinburgh. Scotland's top score against Wales was 9-0 on March 23rd, 1878, in Glasgow.

Wales v N. Ireland

WREXHAM
Friday, May 19th

The only double-figure score ever recorded by Wales in a full international was against Northern Ireland on March 3rd, 1888. Wales won 11-0 with J. Doughty netting four goals and his brother R. Doughty scoring twice.

Northern Ireland have been fairly successful in post-War encounters with Wales, winning eight, drawing eight and losing 15 of the 31 Championship

encounters.

Twice in that period Northern Ireland have had 4-1 victories, April 22nd, 1959, in Belfast and on March 30th, 1966, at Cardiff.

Wales' best result since 1946 was a 5-0 victory in Belfast on March 31st, 1965. Playing in that match was Peter Rodrigues for Wales who was to lead Southampton to a great F.A. Cup Final victory over Manchester United 11 years later.

Britain's top ten caps since 1946

Below are listed the ten most-capped British players of all time, a grand total of 809 full caps. It seems likely that Pat Jennings' total will increase during the current Home Series.

Bobby Moore (England)	108 caps
Bobby Charlton (England)	106 caps
Billy Wright (England)	105 caps
Tom Finney (England)	76 caps
Gordon Banks (England)	73 caps
Alan Ball (England)	72 caps
Pat Jennings (Northern Ireland)	71 caps
Ivor Allchurch (Wales)	68 caps
Martin Peters (England)	67 caps
Ray Wilson (England)	63 caps

(Including Championship and matches v foreign opposition)

Scotland Stars

PAST

DENIS LAW was without doubt the finest footballer produced by Scotland since World War Two. In 55 full internationals for Scotland Law scored 30 goals and is thus the top post-War scorer for Scotland.

His first international appearance for Scotland was in a Championship match and of course he crowned his debut with a goal in a 3-0 Cardiff victory over Wales on October 18th, 1958.

While Law's last international appearance was in the World Cup Finals in West Germany against Zaire on June 14th, 1974.



PRESENT

KENNY DALGLISH starts the series with 51 Scottish caps and by the time he comes back from the World Cup in Argentina should be the new Scottish record-holder for appearances for his country.

His 18 goals in internationals places him third in the post-War scoring record for Scotland, with only Lawrie Reilly (22) and Denis Law (30) in front of him.

In the last Championship series of 1977, Dalglish netted three goals. Scoring twice against Northern Ireland in a 3-0 victory and the second goal at Wembley against England in Scotland's 2-1 victory that confirmed them as winners of the tournament.

England Stars

PAST

JIMMY GREAVES was England's second highest scorer in post-War internationals for England, but although Bobby Charlton was top with 49 goals he played in 106 internationals. Greaves netted his 44 in only 57 England appearances.

Jimmy had a great liking for scoring goals against Northern Ireland. When England won 8-3 in November 1963, he scored four and a year later on October 3rd, 1964, Greaves netted a hat-trick against the Irish in only 12 minutes.

Altogether Greaves scored ten of his 44 goals against Northern Ireland and in his other two games against the Irish he scored two in October, 1960, and one in October, 1962.

PRESENT

EMLYN HUGHES is the most capped current England player. The Liverpool defender won his 51st full cap against West Germany in February this year.

Eighteen of his 51 appearances have been against the Home Countries. Eight were against Wales with six in the Championship and two games in the World Cup. Six

appearances against Scotland with one of them again in a World Cup qualifying match and four against Northern Ireland.

Hughes' only goal for England came in a Championship match. He scored the first goal in a 3-0 England victory against Wales on May 20th, 1972.

Welsh Stars

PAST

TREVOR FORD was a determined centre-forward who had a brilliant goalscoring record, both for his clubs and for Wales.

He first played in War-time football for Swansea as a full-back, but by 1945-46 he was at centre-forward and scored 41 goals! He then played for Aston Villa, Sunderland, Cardiff City, PSV Eindhoven (Holland) and finally finished playing with Newport County in 1960.

Ford played in 349 League games and netted 178 goals. His international record was also very impressive, in 38 internationals he scored 23 goals and is still the top post-War goalscorer for Wales.

PRESENT

TERRY YORATH is the most capped current Welsh player with over 40 full caps for his country.

He will not forget his international debut — it was against Italy in a World Cup qualifying match when Riva scored a hat-trick in a 4-1 Italian victory!

Now Terry is the skipper of a Welsh side that has gone very close to reaching the Finals of the World Cup and also the last European Championships.

Eight of his international appearances have been against Scotland, starting with the match at Cardiff on May 15th, 1970, when Wales drew 0-0.

Northern Ireland Stars

PAST

BILLY BINGHAM, the ex-Sunderland, Luton, Everton, and Port Vale winger's six-goal British Championship tally is a Northern Ireland post-War individual scoring record in the Home Series.

Once-elusive Bingham, now team-boss at Mansfield, is closely followed by Sammy Smyth (Wolves), Davy Walsh (West Brom), Jimmy McIlroy and Billy Irvine (Burnley), and Peter McParland (Aston Villa), all on the five-goal mark in Championship games.

PRESENT

PAT JENNINGS, the Northern Ireland superstar, already his country's most-capped star with 71 full honours, is poised to establish two new international records during the current British Championship.

In Saturday's (May 13) Hampden clash with reigning kingpins Scotland, brilliant Pat, now in his 15th Championship campaign, can overhaul Danny Blanchflower's 37-cap all-time Irish appearance total in the Home competition, equalled by Jennings in the 1-1 Windsor Park draw v. Wales, last term.

And, if the big Arsenal 'keeper plays against England and Wales in the remaining Championship games, he will set up a new international cap record for a British goalkeeper, bettering Gordon Banks' 73 England appearances, between 1963 and 1972.

This week's Star Letter comes from Stephen Sparks of Bracht in West Germany, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

WINTER OF DISCONTENT FOR WORLD CHAMPS

HAVING lived in Germany for six years, I've obviously been able to study their domestic and international soccer closely. There is now a feeling of discontent and unrest among the supporters due to Germany's poor performances of late.

The 1977 South American tour was very successful and everyone was buzzing. Things have turned a little sour since then.

A defeat in France and a 1-1 home draw with Wales were not exactly morale-boosting. An unconvincing, even lucky, 2-1 win over England was put down as an "off day" and the Germans still maintain Stuart Pearson's goal was illegal as he pushed Rüssmann. They overlooked the controversy surrounding Bonhof's free-kick!

Another mediocre performance against the U.S.S.R. followed, with Rüssmann heading home a Bonhof (who else?) free-kick. Blochin caused Vogts many problems, yet the general impression was the games against non-World Cup Final teams were "unimportant".

The Germans' last home game was against Brazil, prospective World Cup opponents, and in Hamburg it was the South Americans

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When writing to us please mention the two features you
liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

who shone, winning 1-0. The "star" forward-line of Rummenigge, Fischer and Abramczik was dismally ineffective.

● Germany are lucky to have such an easy qualifying group in Argentina — even off form they'll surely beat Mexico and Tunisia, if not Poland. Losing 3-1 to Sweden last month must have really made Helmut Schoen think long and hard. With no Beckenbauer to lead them, Germany will find the going tough in the Finals. Is the era of West German soccer domination ending?

Attack

I was angry at your article on Q.P.R. manager Frank Sibley in which you made an unjustified attack on Rangers supporters.

You didn't point out the so-called fans who have barracked Sibley are in the minority and we don't wreck trains or cross-Channel ferries.

CLIVE WILLIAMS,
HANWELL.

● We pointed out despite playing the best and most advanced football in England a couple of years ago, Rangers' gates were poor in comparison and the team deserved better support.

Delighted

As a devoted Brighton fan I was delighted to read in a recent programme the club had been congratulated by British Rail for "the exemplary behaviour of their fans on away trips."

However, it seems a pretty sorry state of affairs that for obeying the rules supporters are congratulated!

MARK BEDWELL,
BILLINGSHURST.

● It does, indeed, but it sums up the unwanted side of soccer '78.

Brazil Slammed

AFTER watching the England/Brazil game, I'm amazed the authorities allow that sort of refereeing in a top match. In that

game, and the England/Italy World Cup-tie, the ref seemed incapable of keeping control... frightened to send players off. Peter Barnes has my sympathy. He seems to be the natural target for foreign hatchet-men.

ALAN ROBINS, DEVIZES.

What a sad sight it was to see such skilled players resorting to rough tactics. What will Brazil be like in the World Cup if the Wembley game was a friendly?

LES OWENS, SOUTH SHIELDS.
People say the Argentina/Italy World Cup-tie will be explosive, but can you imagine Cerezo and Edinho up against Rioch and Hartford?

ERIC BIGGS, BLACKHEATH

● It was a shame to see a great soccer nation like Brazil — who still have so many obviously gifted players — kicking and chopping down England. Ironically, if any country will benefit from a clean World Cup it's Brazil, but if they play like they did at Wembley they'll finish each game with eight players (hopefully).

CORRECTION

Some eagle-eyed readers have spotted an error in our "You are the Ref" feature of April 22nd, 1978.

The answer to problem No. 1, which illustrated the ball striking the referee and entering the goal, was given as "a goal-kick". This was incorrect. The correct decision is a goal.

We apologise for this error. It was a misunderstanding by our artist, and we would like to confirm that the original answer provided by Stan Lover was correct.

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1978 WORLD CUP WALLCHART

LEADING GOALSCORERS

1	GOAL	DATE
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3	GOAL	DATE
4	GOAL	DATE
5	GOAL	DATE
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GROUP ONE				GROUP TWO				GROUP THREE				GROUP FOUR			
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THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

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At least after the season has closed down most players, apart from those with really bad injuries, are available to play for their countries. That the football is seldom of a high standard is due not only to



players' feeling jaded, but also to the state of some pitches after being badly churned-up. It's difficult to play in a controlled, skilful manner on a poor surface.

One of the reasons for switching the Championship to its present position was to stimulate greater interest amongst the fans, and I suppose to a limited extent the powers-that-be made the right decision. But normally there's only one match that draws a capacity crowd — when the "old enemies" of England and Scotland meet on the final day of the competition. I'll be previewing that one next week.

England kick-off against Wales, at Ninian Park, Cardiff, which has been brought up to the required standard for crowd safety.

We've a score to settle with them for coming to Wembley last year and inflicting on us our first-ever defeat there at Welsh hands.

Peter Shilton was in goal for us — then-manager Don Revie decided to rest me after Liverpool's European Cup win in Rome — and he stands a chance of displacing me this time.

Peter, a great friend of mine — he rooms with me on England trips — has been playing so well this season his fellow professionals have already voted him their Player of the Year.

Of course, I hope to hold my place, but manager Ron Greenwood may well be keen to see Peter in action for him for the first time at full level.

In football you learn never to take selection for granted.

Like the other two managers whose teams failed to qualify for the World Cup Finals in Argentina, Wales boss Mike Smith will be looking beyond the Championship to a far more important one — the 1980 European Championship, which we begin playing for later this year.

Last time around, Wales were the only Home nation to reach the Quarter-Finals, only to be beaten by eventual winners, Czechoslovakia.

So I expect to see some new, younger faces in the Welsh line-up, lads whom Mike hopes will show promise and become regular members of his squad.

An Englishman, Mike is held in high regard, and rightly so, because of the remarkable way he has revived the Red Dragons.

The comparatively small number of Welsh players in the League restricts his selection, of course, but there is an advantage inasmuch as he is able to field a settled side. Consequently the Welsh are strong on team spirit and working for each other.

I used to joke with my former team-mate, John Toshack — now player-manager with Swansea City — that it was a good thing Wales had failed to qualify for Argentina because they would be pushed to name 40 players. In fact, they'd have had trouble naming the final 22!

At John's club there is a very good young prospect in Alan Curtis, whose tally of 34 goals last season has caused several First Division clubs to take a look at him, and I fully expect Alan to play for Wales.

The hard core of veterans should still be present: skipper Terry Yorath, an enthusiastic leader of men; Dai Davies, now with Wrexham, an experienced campaigner, and Leighton Phillips of Aston Villa.

I've never yet been on a losing side against Wales — I made my England debut against them at Ninian Park in a World Cup Qualifier — and fingers crossed I, and not Peter Shilton, get the nod from Mr. Greenwood.

But like Mike Smith, our boss may decide to experiment. With due respect to Wales, England could field three or four different sides more than capable of giving them a

RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer

'Leighton James hit the goal that beat England at Wembley'

to settle with Wales'

testing game.

Wales don't score many goals, but don't concede many either. Their defence, marshalled by the strong-tackling Terry Yorath, will be hard to break down. It will be a test of our forwards' ability to capitalise on goal-chances, something they must perfect if England are to stand a chance of later winning the European Championship for the first time.

It'll be the same story against Northern Ireland in our next game, in mid-week at Wembley, when the Irish will also put the emphasis on defence and staging the lightning break for our goal.

Northern Ireland are now managed by Danny Blanchflower, the former Spurs player who captained them in their glory days in the early Sixties.

Mr. Blanchflower, a football-writer with a penchant for the controversial, is experiencing the harsh realities of team management. To his credit, he's come out from behind his typewriter to put his ideas to the test.

After a sensational start, when the Irish held eventual World Cup qualifiers Holland to a 2-2 draw, his team

suffered disappointing results, including a 1-0 defeat to little Iceland.

Obviously they are hoping to erase that painful memory — and put themselves in a strong psychological position for when we later meet in our European Championship group — by winning at Wembley.

We, however, are already one-up in the battle of nerves, having beaten them 2-1 in Belfast in 1977.

I stated earlier on that usually the tournament has only one highlight: the game between England and Scotland. This year is exceptional — there will be another one, between Scotland and Wales.

The Welsh are still smarting from what they consider to be an unfair defeat at Anfield last October, when Scotland beat them 2-0 in the final match in their World Cup group.

The Welsh domination — only a superb save by Scottish 'keeper Alan Rough had denied John Toshack what seemed a certain goal — had been cruelly ended when the

referee awarded the Scots a very dubious penalty.

A photograph produced later apparently cleared David Jones of handling the ball.

After the conversion, the tide turned against them and Kenny Dalglish scored a well-taken second goal.

So Hampden Park, Glasgow, is set for its first real thriller.

The second will come on the following Saturday when England go there bent on avenging our 2-1 defeat last year at Wembley.

I'll be previewing the match between "Greenwood's Greats" and "Ally's Army" next week. So — order your copy now, as the SHOOT advert says.

Ray Clemence

'The Irish will put the emphasis on defence'



Mike Channon (light shirt) on the ball for England against Northern Ireland last year.



Ward will be a hit again

ONE of the most disappointing features of recent months was the loss of goalscoring form by Brighton's Peter Ward.

In his first full season, Peter could do no wrong, and as the League's leading scorer he played a major role in getting Brighton out of the Third Division.

He made a fine start to his Second Division career too, and when he was called in to the England squad for a World Cup game in Luxembourg, everyone was raving about English football's new Jimmy Greaves.

Yet since Peter hardly scored a goal and was even dropped by manager Alan Mullery.

It's to be hoped he was just going

"Mad March"

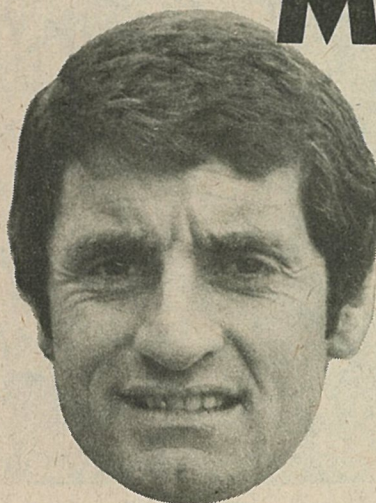
HIBS new goalscoring partnership, Ally MacLeod, and recent signing from Dundee, Bobby Hutchinson, had a "Mad March" spell in which the duo hit the net 12 times in a five games without defeat run by the Easter Road side.

This spell lifted Hibs from the Premier Division's relegation zone to a U.E.F.A. Cup place next season after finishing in third place.

SECOND Division Burnley, whose post-War Ulster signings have included the likes of Jimmy McIlroy, Alex Elder, Willie Irvine, Sammy Todd and current ace Terry Cochran, recently signed Derry youngster Paul Dickson on full professional terms.

On the Turf Moor staff for about 18 months, the lofty central defender looks destined for a lengthy top-class career. Incidentally, the last Derry-born central defender to make a big-time impact was ex-Nottingham Forest and Northern Ireland star, Liam O'Kane.

McLINTOCK'S MISTAKE



ONE PLAYER not surprised Leicester City were relegated this season was Len Glover.

"I had a feeling they would be in trouble," said the ex-Charlton and Leicester winger, now playing in America. "But don't put all the blame on former manager McIntock (left)."

"He had to make changes. I believe he brought in too many players too soon."

"He should have kept the nucleus of the 1976-77 side for the first few months and introduced new players gradually."

Glover blames previous manager Jimmy Bloomfield for leaving McIntock with a poor side.

He says: "Bloomfield spent a lot of money — but now he is at Orient he hasn't looked to Leicester for any players."

DONALD HUNTER returned to Rangers at the end of the season after his two year loan to St. Mirren. This now means the Ibrox club has four goalkeepers on their books . . . Peter McCloy, Stewart Kennedy, Ronnie Lowrie and Hunter. The talk is Rangers are keen to work a swap deal with their 'keepers in an effort to bring a big name star to Ibrox.

DON'T be surprised if you notice a little of the Peter Osgood-type skills when 18-year-old Fulham centre-forward Paul Middleton starts to make a name for himself.

The London-born striker used to idolise Osgood as a youngster.

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

BIG SHIP CAN HELP NELSON

WHEN Charlton boss Andy Nelson paid Gillingham £42,000 for Dave Shipperley in February it was the second time he had signed the giant centre-half.

The first time he took him in the opposite direction, from Charlton to Gillingham. And on that occasion he got Ship for nothing!

That was four years ago when Shipperley, in dispute with Charlton over terms, was given a free transfer from The Valley.

Nelson moved smartly to sign him for Gillingham. Then, within two weeks, Andy had left The Gills to take over as manager of Charlton.

Nelson wanted Shipperley the first time to help get Gillingham promotion from the Fourth Division. And he did it.

Now he hopes Ship can provide the defensive qualities to tighten up Charlton and establish them as contenders for a place in the First Division next season.

And Shipperley is looking forward to the challenge. "Apart from my last few months at Charlton I was basically happy there and was delighted to go back," he says.

"Andy has the nucleus of a very good side and we should make a big impression next term."

through one of those phases that young "finds" often experience — ask Trevor Francis.

Mullery reckons Peter's form was reflected in his personality.

"By nature he's a quiet sort of lad and the pressure on him when he's not scoring goals is intense."

"He took it to heart when people stopped him in the street and asked him why the goals dried up."

"Peter's wife was also expecting a baby and everything built up."

"The lad is on a five year contract though, and he is a class player. He's a star of the future for sure," says Mullery.

● Off the park Peter (above left) relaxes by giving his home a new coat of paint.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY and ex-England youth international Paul Bradshaw is getting back into the swing of things!

Paul, signed for £25,000 from Burnley 18 months ago, recently had a cartilage removed from his right knee. He is now aiming to get back to full fitness for next season.

Until then, Bradie, a golfing fanatic, hopes to get in a few rounds during the summer.

TV AIDS MONTY

ONE OF the best signings made by Birmingham City over the past few years is veteran goalkeeper Jim Montgomery.

Discarded by Sunderland in March, 1977, after giving the North-East club 17 years excellent service, he has turned in some outstanding displays since linking up with Birmingham City on a free transfer.

A feature of his performances with Birmingham has been his ability to save penalties. In the short time at St. Andrews he has saved five — including two against Wolves.

He said: "The secret is to study the habits of the players who take the penalties. Television helps and hopefully you play on these habits."

BRISTOL CITY'S Gerry Gow became the 114th player sent-off in League, League Cup and F.A. Cup matches this season, when he was dismissed at Ipswich on April 22nd. Gow was the third City player to be sent-off in the League this season . . . Gerry Sweeney and Trevor Tainton were the others.

ONE thousand Belfast fans recently signed a petition to have the three-year-old Irish F.A. international life-ban on Bobby Campbell (Sheffield United) and Bertie McMin (Distillery) lifted.

Both players were banned following an off-the-field incident during the 1975 European Youth Championship, in Switzerland.



A LIFE FULL OF DRAMA FOR BORO'S JOHNSTON

MIDDLESBROUGH'S latest addition to their professional ranks — 17-year-old Craig Johnston — has already had a chequered life.

When he was only six Craig, who lived in Rathmines, New South Wales, in Australia, got a kick on the leg, and suffered from a bone disease.

A doctor recommended amputation of the left leg.

Craig says: "I still remember the horror I felt. Fortunately, an American specialist saved my leg."

When he was 14 there was a recurrence of leg trouble and he was advised to pack up football. Craig's response was "You must be joking."

Last year he set his heart on coming to England to try and make the grade as a professional, and he borrowed the £632 return air fare from his father.

After a four-month trial with Boro he has now been signed, a tremendous fillip to this pleasant youngster.

Even in that 16-week period he's had his share of drama, being stranded in the sea, and having to swim for safety, and getting an unexpected first team opportunity.

Things certainly seem to happen to Craig Johnston.

Coventry's curly-kids

COVENTRY CITY are in danger of becoming known as "The Curly Kids". The reason for this is seven of the first team squad have gone in for having their hair permed.

Latest to join the list is former Spurs centre-back Keith Osgood (See feature on page 36.) and his team-mates reckon he has taken on a "Leo Sayer" look.

Also Val Thomas and striker Gary Thompson are naturals. The Sky Blues seem to be ruling the waves.

NOT ONLY did Nottingham Forest supply the first 18-year-old goalkeeper for a Wembley Final in Chris Woods, but in the replay 19-year-old Steve Elliott sat on the bench as substitute and collected a League Cup tankard before he had appeared in any senior match.

YET another managerial head fell recently with the sacking of Carrick Rangers' supremo Jimmy Brown, who guided the East Antrim "B" Division outfit to a sensational Irish F.A. Cup triumph, in 1976.

SOCCER IN THE STATES

HECTOR'S A BIG HIT

KEVIN HECTOR — who topped 250 League goals during his career with Bradford and Derby County — hasn't taken long to start adding to his total in America.

Now with Vancouver Whitecaps, following his transfer from Derby, Kevin scored in each of the club's three opening matches in the N.A.S.L.

Vancouver are coached by former Plymouth manager Tony Waiters and his assistant is Hector's old Derby pal Alan Hinton.

Kevin likes Canada so much he's signed a three-year contract with Whitecaps, although he intends to return to England at the end of the summer.

Also in the Whitecaps team are former Wolves 'keeper Phil Parkes, and Jon Samuels and Steve Kember from Leicester.

1,001 Insults

IT COULD only happen in America. A firm in Illinois have brought out a book ... "The Sportsman's Encyclopedia of 1,001 Insults."

A spokesman for the publishers said: "You will never lose a verbal battle on or off the field. You can devastate your opponents with zingy

one-line putdowns. There are all the wisecracks and comebacks to use against referees and umpires. No true fan should be without one."

Now we know what NOT to get our sons for next Christmas.

The end for Banks?

SADLY, it looks as though the great Gordon Banks might be on his way out after a brave comeback with Fort Lauderdale Strikers. The former England 'keeper, who lost the use of an eye in a car crash, has had a nightmare start to the season.

He let in eight goals against Cosmos in New York in the opening game and was then pulled off during the Strikers' 4-1 defeat in Washington.

Gordon, 38, was named as the N.A.S.L.'s All-Star Goalkeeper in 1977.

Sockers' bonus

THE biggest surprise of the season so far is the fantastic start by San Diego Sockers.

Under new coach Hubert Vogel-singer, they began with four straight wins and also collected nine bonus points for a 33 point tally. That gave them a lead of 18 points over their nearest rivals.

World Cup — 1990

FORMER United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has talked with directors of the North American Soccer League to discuss preliminary plans for staging the 1990 World Cup Finals.

N.A.S.L. supremo Phil Woosnam said: "Dr. Kissinger was with the board for two hours. He's a soccer fanatic, you know."

Suspended

COSMOS defender Bobby Smith was suspended for ten days for making an obscene gesture to the crowd in Los Angeles.



COSMOS GIRLS

N.A.S.L. Champions Cosmos have the ultimate in oneupmanship this season ... substitute cheerleaders.

The club have taken on 15 beautiful girls, but only ten will go on to the pitch at one time. The others will act as subs.

There shouldn't be any shortage of volunteers to act as sponge-man should any of the original ten need to come off.

WORLD CUP '78

THE GAME OF THE CENTURY

THOSE of you who are watching the highly entertaining Game of the Century series on B.B.C. every Sunday afternoon will be interested to know 38 other countries are also taking the six 30-minute shows.

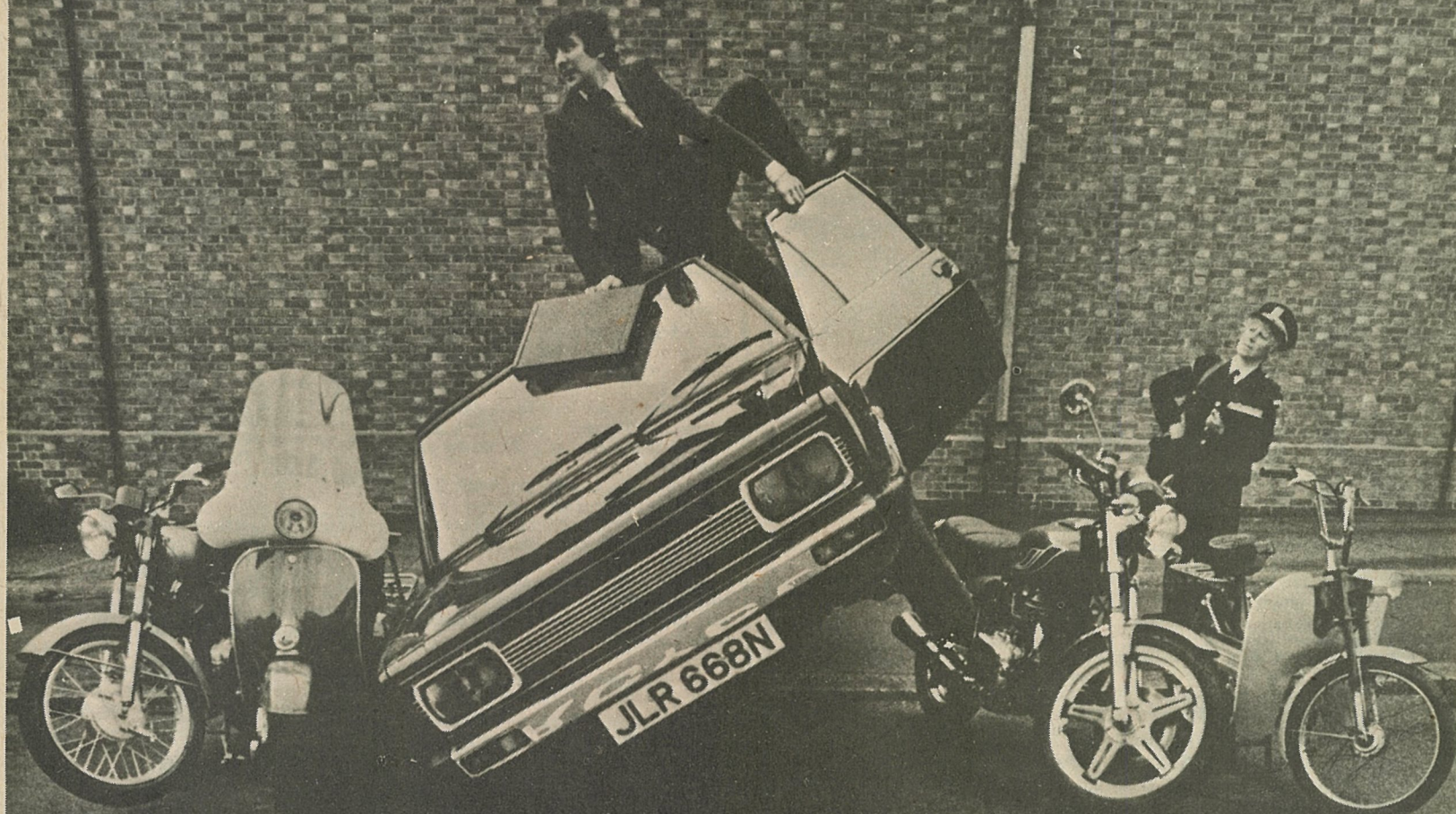
An independent company, Conrad Film Associates, came up with the idea and invested £240,000 in making the series, which the B.B.C. bought.

Producer/director Derek Conrad told us the co-operation had been "fantastic".

He said: "Everywhere we went, from the pampas of Argentina to the desert of Tunisia, people were most helpful."

In all, they shot 45 hours of film, the equivalent of between 20 and 25 full-length feature films.

And just in case you've ever wondered how they got the worm's eye shot of Welsh referee Clive Thomas training ... they set-up their camera on a Flymo lawn mower and "drove" it down the street!



Get on two wheels and you'll find parking a lot cheaper.

These days people who drive cars are finding they're missing out on a lot.

And their envious eyes tell them that people on motorbikes aren't.

Things like painless petrol costs. Cheap road tax.

The manoeuvrability to escape from those dreadful traffic jams.

And then when you want to park, you can. Usually for free.

All these things make motorbikes more suited to commuting and town

driving than any other vehicle.

Occasionally though, there are times when you do need a car. When you have to take the whole family out, for instance. Or when you get lumbered with a ton of shopping.

So what are you to do?

Driving the car around on two wheels won't cut your petrol costs. It takes a lot of practice too.

And you certainly won't fool any traffic wardens if you try to park in a free motorcycle bay.

The answer is simple really. Instead of having one or the other. Have both.

Get a motorbike as well and become a six wheel family. It's a lot cheaper than having a second car. You can run a lightweight motorbike at a quarter of the cost of an ordinary 1300 saloon car.

And it's a lot more fun.



Institute of Motorcycling

For expert advice about motorcycles and motorcycle training schemes, consult your local dealer.

Watford in the First Division— that's Elton John's goal

WATFORD chairman Elton John is the first to give credit to his new backing group for the club's marvellous success this season.

The group he's referring to, of course, is the back room staff at the club, many of whom rarely get a mention.

The best known of them is naturally manager Graham Taylor. Of him, Elton says: "He's one of the most influential people I've ever met and I've learned a tremendous amount about football from him."

"He normally sits in the directors' box with me for the first-half of the game. I'm not an idiot when it comes to the playing side but sometimes he makes tactical changes that I don't understand and he'll go through them with me in fine detail."

"People have said he's only able to manage Fourth Division sides but that's rubbish and I hope he'll prove that in Division Three next season."

"Graham's a tremendous manager and then we've got Bertie Mee as his assistant. There's a guy who can tell you about running a football club. What a fellow to have on your payroll."

Taylor and Mee get their mentions, of course, but what about general-manager Ron Rollitt, who's been at the club 25 years?

He's seen the disasters as well

as the successes and he says: "The results of the team obviously affect the spirit of all the people on the staff, not just the players. Over the past few years, it's been so dull here that when the phone rang everybody dived to answer it. No one really wanted to know us. Now the phones rarely stop."

Elton is also pleased for the players who were at Watford before Taylor arrived this season and who stayed on to prove themselves.

"I'm glad for lads like Ross Jenkins, who was here before and who looked as though he might not be good enough to hold a place. And how Alan Garner didn't get into the P.F.A.'s Fourth Division team, I'll never know. He had an outstanding season."

"But I suppose my player of the season would be Joe Bolton. There's a player for the future for you."

Elton and the rest of the board have big plans for the future.

Champagne time for Elton John and his triumphant Watford players.

They're talking about a new stadium that would cost millions of pounds, seat 30-40,000 and have synthetic turf.

"We've got to make up our minds very soon but it's a very difficult decision. If we stay and renovate Vicarage Road, it will cost about the same so it's really a question of whether our fans would want to go to a new stadium. They tend to be creatures of habit."

"I think the synthetic turf has got to come in this country. When you mention it to people at the top, they take a few steps backwards but it's already used a lot in America and I'm sure it will hap-

pen here.

"Looking at Watford's future, I would like to see us achieve the professionalism of Liverpool, the facilities of Aston Villa and the organisation of Coventry."

"But if I had to pick one club as my model, it would have to be Liverpool. I have tremendous admiration for the way they go about things."

"My trouble is I'm so impatient. I

want everything to happen at once. I know it's going to take time for us to get right up to the First Division but that's my eventual goal. If I didn't believe we could do it, I wouldn't even bother to carry on."

The worst thing about being chairman, he says, is actually watching the games. "The tension is worse than going out to face a 100,000 live audience. I can't even go out on Saturday nights after a match any more, I'm so wound up."

"I never used to get so excited, even when I stood on the terraces and watched Watford as a kid. It's just the responsibility now I'm chairman."

"People kept telling me all season we'd go up and there was no need to worry. But that made it worse. All I could think about was what idiots we'd look if we didn't make it. The day we finally clinched the Fourth Division Championship, all I felt was relief."

"I'll have a good cheer if we get promotion again next year, though. There's a lot to be done in the summer — whether we decide to move or not we'll still be making improvements to our present ground — but I can hardly wait for the new season to start. I think we've got a good chance of going up again."



NOBODY WANTS THEM.

Beauty isn't just skin deep. Nor good looks. But it does help. Which is where regular skin care can help. And by regular I mean regular. Twice a day skin needs a really good cleanse. Particularly if it's at all greasy or prone to spots. Cepton Cleansing Lotion is ideal. Slightly astringent so it leaves your skin tingling, fresh and clean.

Another way to protect your skin is a once-weekly facial scrub. This really cleans out the pores and leaves skin clear and clean.

My first feeling when I felt Cepton Facial Scrub on my fingers was surprise. It has hundreds of little granules. But it's these granules that go deep down and really cleanse thoroughly.

If, however, you've got a spot, or even two, don't despair. Nothing zots spots like Cepton Gel.

And once the spots have gone remember. Cleanse. Cleanse. Cleanse. Because clean skin stands a better chance of being clear beautiful skin.

NOBODY HAS TO HAVE THEM.

And after all who wants spots?

A regular wash with Cepton Facial Scrub means you remove the dead skin and excess oil from your skin. And that gives spots and blackheads a tough time.

So use Cepton Facial Scrub and maybe the day will never come when you look in the mirror and say, 'Why me'?

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Cleansing
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Cepton zots Spots.

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**DUNCAN
McKENZIE
Everton**

SHOOT!

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP '78

Mike Channon powers in a shot for England against Wales at Wembley last year. Mike Smith's men won 1-0.



England's Trevor Cherry —

'A revenge encounter'

I DIDN'T play in last year's match against Wales at Wembley, but the fact we lost 1-0 at home makes us keen to come out on top this time, and it will be something of a revenge encounter for England.

Of course, the match is at Cardiff, and Wales will have plenty of support in their own area, though

this is not likely to bother our players, as there is a lot of experience in the England team.

But we'll be prepared for a tough game, and this Welsh side must be the best they have had for years. As a player, I've immense respect for Terry Yorath, an old colleague of mine at Leeds, and a key man

for Wales. Certainly, Mike Smith has done a top job for them, and I'll be delighted if we can come away with a win.

Following England's 1-1 draw with Brazil, there is confidence in our side, and our manager, Ron Greenwood, is an expert at building morale and taking away any

feelings of pressure before a match. Against Wales, I think we'll be attacking, going forward and looking for goals, and I'm hoping we'll get a result which will help us to move nearer to winning the Championship.

In the tournament, I believe we can count on having the English crowd behind us — they were great in the game with Brazil, and we will be doing our very best to justify their faith in us.



Scotland's Don Masson —

'We'll pull out all stops'

IF WE can win the tournament this year, it will mean Scotland have been Champions for the third successive season, which is a unique hat-trick — so we'll be pulling out all the stops against Northern Ireland.

And we are at Hampden, which gives us the home advantage and makes me confident we can repeat our win of last year against Northern Ireland. But I must say that scoring against them is never easy. And in Pat Jennings, Northern Ireland have a world-class goalkeeper who seems as though he'll go on forever.



Despite close attention from Northern Ireland defenders, Scotland's Kenny Dalglish almost nets with this effort.

Then, of course, there is our game against Wales a few days later, and in my view, they will be the hardest opposition we have to face in the tournament. They will naturally be all out to beat us following our victory against them at Anfield when we qualified for the World Cup, and we can depend upon them to put up a fight.

I can still recall the 0-0 draw between Wales and Scotland last year at Wrexham, when we only just managed to finish on level terms. But this season, with Scotland as World Cup entrants, I believe we'll be favourites for the Championship, and in it I expect us to field different teams for the various matches.

But I know every Scottish eleven will be a strong one, and it will be up to our manager, Ally MacLeod, to decide on the tactics we shall use on the different occasions. He has done a good job with the Scottish team, and under him, we'll feel we can get good results against Northern Ireland and Wales, not forgetting England.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP '78



itself, and makes predictions pointless. But we have experienced men in our side who will not be bothered by the occasion, and will give a good account of themselves.

Three days before the England match, Northern Ireland take on Scotland at Hampden, and we've played there so often in recent years it is almost like a home game for us. But the fact the Scots have three games at Hampden in the tournament means it should make them favourites to win the Championship.

However, the bigger the occasion, the better we play. The Northern Ireland players can

Northern Ireland's Sammy Nelson —

'Nothing to lose'

I SAW the Northern Ireland game in Belfast last year from the sub's bench, and on that occasion I thought we were worth a draw. England got their winning goal only two minutes from the end, but as the length of a match is 90 minutes I suppose that was fair enough.

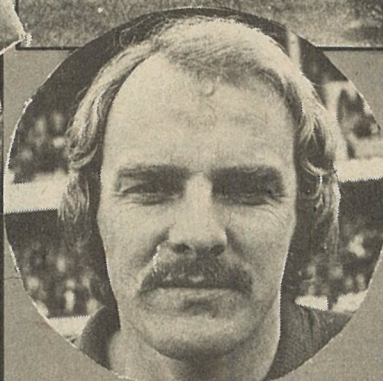
This time, we meet England at Wembley, and I anticipate we will play an attacking game against them — and as for how the match will go, I believe this is something that is resolved only on the day

always lift themselves, the team spirit is good, and a fellow like Pat Jennings in our side boosts our morale.

And our manager, Danny Blanchflower, makes the players think about their game, starting with the schoolboys, then up to the Under-21 and full national side. We know we've nothing to lose by attacking and going forward, and men with reputations in other teams never worry us. And this will be our approach against England and Scotland.



Scotland's Gordon McQueen gets above Wales' keeper Dai Davies but heads over the bar.



Wales' Terry Yorath —

'Plenty of attacking football'

SCOTLAND will be fancied to win against us on Wednesday, but we are out to prove we are just as good as they are. At one time, Wales may not have relished a trip to Hampden, but now that is all changed. We are looking forward to the game, and there is no pressure on us at all — but Scotland are in front of their own fans, and have to justify the fact they are worthy of their World Cup status.

And we feel they were fortunate to qualify for the World Cup in their game against Wales at Anfield. The memory of that debatable penalty-kick awarded to Scotland still rankles with us, which gives us an extra incentive to do well at Hampden. I don't think Scotland were a better side than us in Liverpool, and indeed we've no need to fear any team in the Championship.

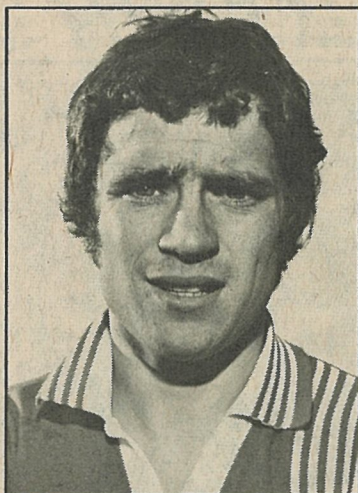
These days, Wales have more players from the First Division in their line-up, and we were all pleased when Mike Smith refused offers of managing a League club and decided to carry on in charge of the Welsh team. Under him, we have developed our skills, and at Anfield we came close to success, though in the end it eluded us.

At Hampden, with Scotland in a position where they must deliver the goods, and Wales determined to show the result at Anfield was a false one, I anticipate there will be plenty of attacking football and possibly a few goals scored.

I expect it to be a hard tussle, which is not unusual in this tournament. Last season, Wales had their hardest game against Northern Ireland. And from last year's matches in the British Championship, Wales gained a great belief in itself.



Pat Jennings and Bryan Hamilton of Ireland combine to stop England's Dennis Tueart.



Rangers (right, light shirts) just pipped Aberdeen to the Scottish Premier Division title in 1977-78. The goals of Ian Fleming (left) enabled The Dons to keep up the pressure on the Ibrox club.

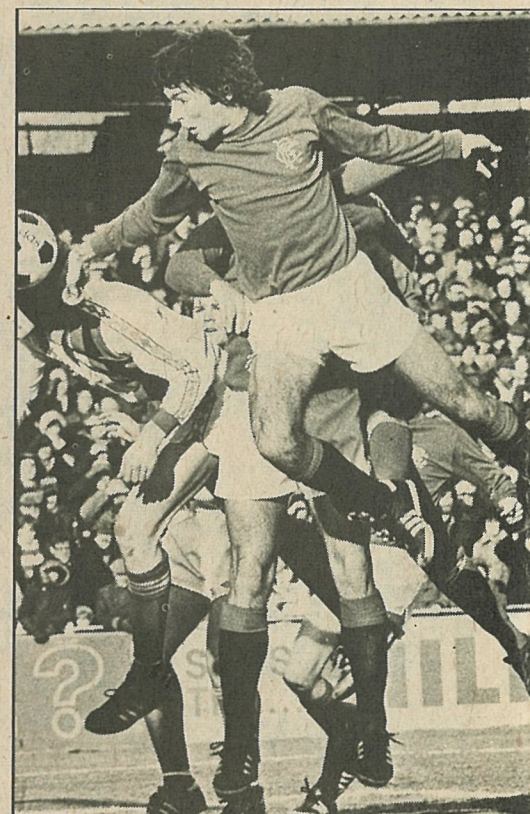
SCOTTISH LEAGUE RESULTS 1977-78



PREMIER (Across for home results and down for away)	ABERDEEN	AYR UNITED	CELTIC	CLYDEBANK	DUNDEE UTD.	HIBS	MOTHERWELL	PARTICK T.	RANGERS	ST. MIRREN
ABERDEEN		0-0 4-1	2-1 2-1	1-1 2-0	0-0 1-0	1-2 3-0	4-1 5-0	2-1 2-1	3-1 4-0	3-1 4-2
AYR UNITED	0-1 1-1		2-1 2-1	2-0 0-0	0-2 0-1	0-1 2-0	1-1 0-1	1-2 1-3	0-5 2-5	3-2 0-1
CELTIC	3-2 2-2	3-2 3-0		1-0 5-2	0-0 1-0	3-1 2-1	0-1 0-1	3-0 5-2	1-1 2-0	1-2 1-2
CLYDEBANK	1-3 0-1	0-2 0-2	3-2 1-1		0-3 2-0	1-0 0-3	2-1 0-2	0-4 2-0	0-3 0-2	2-2 2-2
DUNDEE UTD	0-1 0-0	1-0 3-1	1-2 0-1	4-0 1-0		2-0 1-1	3-2 1-1	2-2 5-2	0-1 0-1	2-1 2-1
HIBS	2-0 1-1	1-2 4-2	1-1 4-1	2-0 2-0	0-0 3-1		0-0 2-1	2-3 3-1	0-1 1-1	2-0 5-1
MOTHERWELL	1-1 0-0	5-0 3-0	2-3 2-1	2-1 0-1	0-0 0-1	1-0 2-4		3-0 2-0	1-4 3-5	0-3 1-0
PARTICK T.	1-0 0-2	2-2 4-1	1-0 0-4	1-0 0-0	2-1 0-2	1-0 2-1	1-0 2-3		0-4 1-2	2-1 5-0
RANGERS	3-1 0-3	2-0 1-1	3-2 3-1	4-1 1-0	2-0 3-0	0-2 0-0	3-1 2-0	3-3 2-1		2-1 1-1
ST. MIRREN	0-4 1-2	2-0 2-3	3-3 3-1	1-1 2-0	0-1 1-2	3-0 3-0	1-0 1-1	2-1 1-1	3-3 0-2	



Partick Thistle goalscorer Doug Somner (above) scored some vital goals for his club. Another player regularly on the mark was Derek Johnstone of Rangers (right).



DIV. 1	AIRDRIE	ALLOA ATH	ARBROATH	DUMBARTON	DUNDEE	EAST FIFE	HAMILTON A	HEARTS	KILMARNOCK	MONTROSE	MORTON	Q. OF SOUTH	ST. JOHNSTONE	STIRLING A.
AIRDRIE		3-1 2-1	1-1 2-1	0-2	3-0 3-3	2-1 0-0	1-1	2-4	1-2	0-3 4-3	0-1 2-3	2-1 2-0	1-1	0-1
ALLOA ATH	3-3		1-1 0-0	2-3 3-0	3-5 1-5	3-2	2-2	0-2	1-2	1-3 3-0	1-3 0-5	2-2	1-3	1-0 0-0
ARBROATH	1-0	2-0		2-2 1-1	0-0	2-2 1-0	2-1 3-0	0-7 0-1	2-2 1-0	0-3	1-2 2-2	3-1	2-2 0-1	1-3
DUMBARTON	2-1 2-1	2-0	1-0		0-0 2-1	3-0	1-0 1-1	2-2	2-2	4-0 2-2	1-1 1-4	2-0 1-1	5-1 2-1	2-2
DUNDEE	3-0	6-0	2-3 2-0	2-1		2-1 2-0	3-0	1-1	2-1 5-2	4-1	3-1 1-1	3-0 3-0	5-3 3-4	0-1
EAST FIFE	2-3	2-2 1-2	0-0	3-1 0-0	0-3		0-0	2-0 1-2	2-3 0-0	1-1	2-3	1-0 2-0	1-2 1-3	0-1 1-1
HAMILTON A	4-0 0-0	4-1 0-1	3-1	3-3	1-1 0-1	5-3 3-2		0-2	2-0 1-3	4-1 2-1	0-0	4-3	0-1	1-1 3-1
HEARTS	3-2 3-0	1-0 2-1	3-2	2-1 1-1	2-1 2-2	4-1	0-2 1-0		1-2 3-0	2-2	1-1	1-0	3-0	2-0
KILMARNOCK	0-0 1-1	3-1 4-0	3-0	2-2 0-1	1-0	0-0	1-1	1-1		5-1 1-0	0-3	1-1 2-0	0-1 2-0	2-3
MONTROSE	1-2	1-2	2-1 1-0	2-2	1-2 0-3	2-0 2-1	1-2	3-1 0-0	0-0		0-1	0-0 5-2	1-2 3-2	2-2
MORTON	3-1	4-2	1-2	0-0	2-3	1-0 5-0	4-1 3-0	5-3 0-1	0-2 2-0	2-2 2-1		0-1 1-1	4-1	4-2 2-0
Q. OF SOUTH	2-2	1-0 1-0	1-2 0-1	1-0	0-2	3-3	2-1 1-1	3-3 1-1	1-0	2-1	2-3		2-2 2-2	2-3 1-4
ST. JOHNSTONE	2-1 0-1	0-1 3-0	2-1	0-2	1-2	3-0	1-0 1-1	0-1 0-2	2-0	1-0	1-3 0-1	1-2		0-0 1-3
STIRLING A	0-1 2-0	1-1	0-0 0-0	2-3 2-2	0-2 2-3	4-1	1-0	2-4 1-2	2-1 0-0	2-1 4-2	1-2	1-1	5-1	



Dundee (dark strip) and Hearts battled for most of the season for a promotion spot. Hearts went up with Morton. Top scorer at Kilmarnock last season was Donnie McDowell (right).



Berwick's Billy Laing scores from the penalty-spot against Falkirk.



DIV. 2	ALBION R	BERWICK R	BRECHIN C	CLYDE	COWDENBEATH	DUNFERMLINE	EAST STIRLING	FALKIRK	FORFAR ATH	MEADOWBANK T	QUEEN'S PARK	RAITH R	STENHOUSEMUIR	STRANRAER
ALBION R		3-3	2-0	0-0	4-3	3-0 0-1	0-1	1-1 0-2	2-0	3-2	3-3 3-4	1-2	3-1 2-0	1-2 4-0
BERWICK R	2-0 3-3		3-2 5-3	0-0	4-0 1-1	2-2	1-1 2-0	1-1	4-1 2-1	2-1 3-0	1-0	0-0 1-2	2-2	2-2
BRECHIN C	1-2 0-1	2-3		1-2 0-2	1-2	0-1 1-2	3-2	3-1	0-0	3-5 0-1	3-1 2-2	4-0	2-1	0-2 2-2
CLYDE	3-0 4-0	3-1 3-1	2-0		3-2 4-1	2-0 4-2	2-2	2-1	2-1 0-0	7-0	0-1	0-0 0-1	3-0	4-0
COWDENBEATH	3-4 7-1	2-1	2-1 0-2	1-2		3-1 1-1	1-2	2-1	1-4	4-0 1-1	4-3 1-3	1-2	1-2	1-0 1-3
DUNFERMLINE	2-1	0-0 1-1	6-1	1-1	3-3		1-0	0-1 2-0	2-0 1-1	3-0 7-1	4-0 0-0	0-2	2-1 4-1	2-0
EAST STIRLING	1-0 2-1	2-7 1-0	1-0 2-1	1-1 2-1	3-1	1-0 2-2		0-2 0-2	3-4 0-1	1-2	1-1	1-2 2-2	2-1	2-1
FALKIRK	1-2	2-1 0-0	1-0 2-0	1-0 2-2	2-2	0-0	2-3		1-2	1-1 2-4	0-3	2-2 2-2	1-1 1-0	1-0
FORFAR ATH	3-1	1-0	4-1 4-1	1-2	1-3 2-1	0-1	3-3	2-0 2-2		2-0	3-1 0-3	1-0	4-1 1-1	3-2 3-1
MEADOWBANK T	1-2 0-3	0-2	0-0	0-1 1-1	2-3	2-4 1-2	2-4 1-2	1-2	1-0 1-1		1-1 1-3	0-0	2-3	2-2 2-1
QUEEN'S PARK	1-1	0-0 2-3	0-2	1-1 0-1	2-1	1-1	3-2 0-0	1-2 1-1	2-1	1-1		0-3 0-0	1-0 1-0	0-2 2-0
RAITH R	1-1 2-0	7-1 1-0	3-1 1-0	1-1 2-2	2-2	0-1 2-1	1-0	1-1	1-2 2-0	1-0 4-0	1-1		3-0	1-1
STENHOUSEMUIR	2-4	0-0 1-1	1-0 2-2	2-2 0-2	1-3 0-4	2-0	4-1 1-0	1-1	1-0	2-2 3-1	0-2	1-1 1-2		1-0
STRANRAER	3-5 0-1	0-1 1-1	2-1 2-1		3-1	1-1 0-2	3-2 3-0	0-2 0-2	4-1	4-1	1-1	1-4 1-0	3-0 1-2	

Scottish First and Second Division clubs play each other three times in League matches.

NATURALLY, I was most disappointed when Scotland manager Ally MacLeod didn't name me in his squad for Argentina when his selection was announced on May 3rd.

Still, the door wasn't closed completely, and as one of the six stand-by players there was at least an outside chance of achieving my ambition of helping Scotland win the World Cup.

Before Argentina, though, there is the British Championship, which promises to be more competitive than ever this year.

If anyone thinks Scotland will be taking the British Championship lightly, they're mistaken. We've won the title for the past two seasons — and what better way to set off for Argentina than beating England to make it a hat-trick?

It's often said the Championship

is a waste of time . . . that we learn little by playing each other. I disagree.

Maybe we don't learn much, but the fans and players enjoy the competition and in the past few years, certainly, a more competitive edge has come into the tournament.

England no longer dominate and we've seen Scotland and Wales stealing more of the limelight.

The crowds are generally good. Scotland have three games at Hampden this year and there won't be many empty spaces I can assure you.

Even though three games in a week is a big expense for our fans, somehow they always find the money to follow Scotland and I'm sure they'll be on hand to give the team a traditional send-off.

I can't see any Scotland player not treating the Championship seriously, even though there is the risk of injury and the World Cup just around the corner. When you play in front of a packed Hampden crowd, there's only one way you can play and that's flat out, giving everything.

There has been speculation regarding how Ally MacLeod will approach the games. Will he field what he considers his strongest team in every match . . . or will he

experiment a little?

I have a hunch he may use the games against Northern Ireland and Wales to give two or three of the "fringe" players a run-out, but against England it must be Scotland's top line-up.

I've never played in the Championship. I was in the Scotland squad two years ago yet didn't get a game; last year I was injured and helped I.T.V. with their television presentation.

Scotland kick-off against Ireland who, despite having some talented individuals in recent years, have never managed to put together consistent team performances. Individually, Ireland have been as good as the other Home Countries — especially when they had the likes of Jennings, Best and Dougan, not forgetting stalwarts like Rice, Nelson and Allan Hunter.

Obviously having to play away from Belfast because of the civil unrest did them no good. They must have forgotten what a home game was like.

Individually, Ireland have had the edge on Wales, yet the Welsh side is one of the most effective units in Europe.

Under Mike Smith they've gone from strength to strength and I'm sure they'll be extra keen to avenge that World Cup defeat at Anfield last year.

Wales have had important players

'SCOTLAND OUT FOR A HAT-TRICK'

ANDY

GRAY

writes for you



BELOW... "Tom Forsyth, Bruce Rioch and Colin Jackson after Scotland's 1976 British Championship victory."

RIGHT... "At the Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield with patients Shern Potter and Andrew Harper."



in key positions... Leighton Phillips, my team-mate, at the back; little Brian Flynn in midfield; big John Toshack up-front; Leighton James has also shone for his country even when his club form has been disappointing. Leighton, of course, was dropped by Wales recently.

The Welsh have drawn in West Germany and won in Iran — both World Cup Finalists — and I rate Wales as a very difficult team to beat.

The Big One, though, must be England. Every game between the two is special, yet this year's promises to be EXTRA special.

England haven't beaten Scotland in the last two matches and will be desperate to put one over on Britain's sole World Cup representatives.

The clash against England has traditionally been THE match for the Scots. This is because as a small country, we're fiercely patriotic and Hampden Park is just outside Glasgow, the soccer capital of Scotland.

You never get the same atmosphere at Wembley (unless Scotland are there!) because Wembley is not representative of English football... London isn't really the heart of English soccer.

Expensive

Fans in Scotland can travel to Glasgow easily, even from, say, Aberdeen. For someone in Newcastle or Liverpool to go down to Wembley, the journey is more involved and expensive.

Also, in the past, the game against England at Hampden always attracted the biggest attendance of the season. Now, all our games are well supported, but in the Sixties, for instance, the players often felt a sense of anti-climax after the England match.

As a fan I used to see victory over England as the ultimate result and my most memorable game is the one in 1967 when Scotland became the first team to beat the then World Champions.

I was 11 at the time and saw the game on television. I'll never forget the skills of Denis Law and Jim Baxter from our 3-2 victory at Wembley.

It's difficult to assess the new England under Ron Greenwood

because he's been hit by injuries and club calls like his predecessors.

Everyone has their opinions and I feel Peter Shilton should be given a run of games. On form, there's no one to touch him and I was surprised he didn't play against Brazil even though he did turn out for Forest the previous night. A goalkeeper is different from an outfield player and Peter would have coped with both matches.

In my view, the Forest 'keeper — elected Player of the Year by his fellow professionals — has been the outstanding goalie this season.

Speaking of goalkeepers... Ray Clemence will need no reminding of the last meeting at Hampden. It was his blunder that enabled Kenny Dalglish to win the game for Scotland — the ball somehow went between Ray's legs. I doubt if the Liverpool 'keeper has ever felt as bad during his entire career.

Of course, I suppose we must face the possibility — Heaven forbid, though — that England may win at Hampden Park.

If the unthinkable should happen, it would mean more to the Scotland fans than the players. Ally MacLeod will see his squad goes to Argentina in the right frame of mind and whatever happens in the Championship will be forgotten. The World Cup is everything... although going to Argentina as British Champions would be a very nice bonus.

The game at Hampden will be one of the most memorable for years, whatever the outcome. For the fans, the match can't come quickly enough.

And the players? Well, it's obviously important... but far more important is the World Cup a week or so later.

Join me in two weeks when I'll be talking about Scotland's chances in Argentina. Until then...

Andy Green

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

ASK THE EXPERT

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Nelson

My grandfather has been telling me a club called Nelson used to play in the Football League. If so, when was this?

T. R. METCALFE, LETCHWORTH

● The Lancashire club, formed in 1882, was one of the founder-members of the old Third Division (North) in 1921.

They were Champions in only their second season, gaining promotion to Division Two — but were quickly relegated back twelve months later.

After a disastrous 1930-31 season — in which they failed to get a single point from their 21 away games — Nelson were not re-elected to the League.

Emlyn Hughes

Can you tell me where Liverpool skipper Emlyn Hughes came from, and how many games he played for his other clubs?

STEPHEN NEW, COULSDON

● Emlyn has only played for one other League club, Stephen.

He made his League debut for Blackpool in May, 1966 but, after only 28 games there, Bill Shankly stepped in sharpish with a £65,000 cheque the following February.

Since which time, of course, he's been going from strength to strength with Liverpool — and England.

First-ever

I know Notts County are the oldest League side, but I'd like to know how they got on in their first League match?

ANDREW ELLERY, PORTSMOUTH

● County, formed in 1862, are 26 years older than the League itself, of which they were one of the twelve founder-members, Andrew.

Their first League game, on 15th September, 1888, was a 2-1 defeat at Everton.

Frank Barson

Can you tell me if a player called Frank Barson ever played for Aston Villa?

MICHAEL MAI, DENMARK

● He certainly did, Michael — and, although it was only for the first three seasons after World War One, he was one of their best-known defenders.

He also played for Barnsley from 1911 until his transfer to Villa in 1919 — and, between 1922 and 1931, played League football for Manchester United, Watford, Hartlepool, and Wigan.

Barson won an F.A. Cup-winner's medal with Villa in 1920, and also played once for England in the same season.

Less to his credit was the number of times he was sent-off — but he also has another mention in the record-books.

Playing for Villa against Sheffield United over Christmas 1921, Barson

headed the winning goal from 30 yards out — the second-longest headed goal in League history.

Shared Championship

Has the British Championship ever been shared between all four countries?

SHAUN NIXON, SHEFFIELD

● Yes, it has, Shaun — just once. That was in 1955-56, when they all tied on three points.

Goal-difference, or goal-average, didn't count in the final reckoning — but, if it had, it would have been to England's advantage.

Their goal-tally was 5-to-3 — compared with Scotland's 4-3, Wales's 3-4, and Northern Ireland's 3-5.

London derby

As a Swedish fan of Chelsea, can you tell me how they fared on the day I was born — 13th November, 1954?

KARE RASMUSSEN, SWEDEN

● It was an all-London First Division battle with Tottenham Hotspur that day, Kare — and Chelsea took the points with a 2-1 win.

And they went on and won the League Championship that season — for the first, and so far only, time in their existence.

Q.P.R./Derby

I've supported Q.P.R. for 40 years and, amongst my collection of souvenirs, is a programme I bought at a Sixth Round F.A. Cup-tie against Derby on 28th February, 1948. But I never wrote the score on it, and just can't remember now.

M. M. MARKS, LONDON, E.8

● I can remind you that Cup-tie all those years ago ended 1-1 — but you might still like to go on forgetting the replay. Up at Derby, those old-time not-so-Superhoops got well-and-truly knocked-out by 5-0!

SHORT PASSES

● Orient's record home gate is 34,345 (v. West Ham; F.A. Cup; 25th January, 1964).

(NIGEL GIBBS, St. Albans)

● Stockport's best effort in the F.A. Cup has been in reaching the Fifth Round in 1934-35 and 1949-50.

(JANE PETERS, Stockport)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

Starts
today:

OUR WEEK-BY-WEEK ACCOUNT OF THE

Week Ending AUGUST 20 . . .

A CRAZY KICK-OFF

FIVE days to go before the League season starts, but already things are hotting-up. Don Revie has (with agreeable financial compensation) pitched his tent in the desert; various club managers have been, or soon will be, fired; costly new-boy Kenny Dalglish has starred while Liverpool and Manchester United share-out the Charity Shield in a goal-less, but not entertainment-less, Wembley draw.

There are tales that ambitious Arsenal, hopefully sorting-out Australian summer tour problems with Macdonald and Hudson, are prepared to lash-out a new record fee of £600,000 for Birmingham's brilliant, but unsettled, Trevor Francis.

Tuesday sees the unacceptable face of soccer all too quickly back again — with three players sent-off, and many booked, in the night's crop of League Cup-ties. And, as a nostalgic note, history's youngest-ever F.A. Cup Finalist, the then 18-year-old Howard Kendall, moves on again to Stoke 13 years later.

After much speculation, it's to be highly-respected "elder statesman" Ron Greenwood — at least for the next three internationals — to guide England in picking up the shattered bits Sheik Reva left behind.

Goalkeeper-supreme Pat Jennings moves down the road from Spurs to Arsenal for a mere £40,000 — surely destined to be the transfer-snip of the season.

Thursday's a bigger, if not necessarily better, transfer-day, with Everton — determined to try and outshine their European Cup-winning neighbours — splashing-out £350,000 on Q.P.R. striker Dave Thomas and Blackpool 'keeper George Wood. And Stoke's skilful John Mahoney moves on to Middlesbrough for £90,000.

BUSY TRANSFER MARKET

THE Scottish season is already in full swing, with the new-look kick-off proving a winner. Instead of the usual Scottish League Cup sections to get things going, it's right into the League programme with a new style knock-out League Cup — English style — to come later in the season.

The transfer of Kenny Dalglish from Celtic to Liverpool on Tuesday August 9th for a British record of £440,000 is still the talk of the country despite other action on the Parkhead transfer front . . . namely the sale of Scottish international Pat McCluskey to Dumbarton.

As Celtic boss Jock Stein stays on the best possible terms with his bank manager and eyes the available talent throughout the country, Old Firm rivals Rangers make their move for what turned out to be the bargain of the season.

The Ibrox club have been linked with Kilmarnock's Gordon Smith for about

The Football Association announce that Don Revie will be charged with "bringing the game into disrepute". Meanwhile F.I.F.A. confirm that Revie can't legally be banned from working in football outside England.

Talking of managers, is "The Doc" also off — to Norway? Eve-of-season reports from across the North Sea say the recently-fired Manchester United boss has agreed terms on a two-year contract to take charge of Norwegian Champs Lilleström.

Saturday arrives, and the League season opens up on a prophetic note of things to come — with newly-promoted, unfancied "Clough Forest" thumping big-spending Everton 3-1 at Goodison.

£440,000 Kenny Dalglish scores great debut-goal in Liverpool's 1-1 draw at Middlesbrough; Anfield predecessor Kevin Keegan doesn't find net for Hamburger SV in unconvincing victory over an amateur side.

18-year-old sub Paul Hooks has only time for one real kick during his two-minute stint for Notts County. Unfortunately for him, it's at a Blackburn defender — and his quick-time sending-off must almost rate an unwelcome minor record of some sort!

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Man. Utd.; Spurs; Bradford City; Chester; Barnsley.
TOTAL GOALS: 136.
HAT-TRICKS: 1 — Macari (Man. Utd. v. Birmingham).
HIGHEST GATE: 45,963 — Man. City v. Leicester.
TOTAL GATE: 584,279.
AVERAGE GATE: 12,701.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: (4) Morton, Dunfermline.
TOTAL GOALS: 63.
HAT-TRICKS: None.
HIGHEST GATE: Rangers v. Hibs 20,000.
PREMIER LEAGUE TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 57,000.
TABLE TOPPERS: Dundee United.

Week Ending AUGUST 27 . . .

LONDON GLOOM

THE week starts on an ominously prophetic note for London — with a gloomy survey on the prospects of its clubs. Pointing out that a total of only 110,000 fans — a combined gate smaller than that of Real Madrid — watched the capital-clubs' six weekend home games, the survey predicts an eventual amalgamation of some of the dozen as the only long-term hope of overall success for the area.

We've heard of player-power — but now it looks as if new England manager Ron Greenwood may be banking on Scouse-power. He has a meeting with Liverpool's nine candidates, and there are rumours that he intends to use the European Champs as the backbone of his side — just as, successfully in the past, West Germany have done with Bayern Munich, and Holland with Ajax.

Seems, too, that Greenwood even includes 35-year-old Ian Callaghan, evergreen veteran of the 1966 World Cup-winning squad, in his plans. Says Anfield boss Bob Paisley: "Ron expressed a special wish for Cally to be present at the meeting."

There are all sorts of other stories about how Greenwood intends to shake-up England — but the message has so far failed to get through to the fans. With less than a fortnight to go before the first game of the season, against Switzerland, only 3,000 tickets have been sold — an advance-sales figure described by Wembley as "one of our lowest-ever".

By mid-week, the first League tables of the new season appear. And guess

who's top of the First — Clough's precocious new-boys from Nottingham. "Flash in the pan", though, predict the "experts".

George Petchey resigns at Orient to become the first managerial casualty since the new campaign's kick-off. Jimmy Bloomfield, successful there earlier, or Eddie McCreadie emerge as favourites to take over.

By five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, only four sides — one in each Division — can claim maximum points from their three games. Under-rated Forest, Bolton, Colchester, and Aldershot are the happy hundred-per-centers.

Les Cocker — ending a 13-year association with our international football, stretching well back into the Ramsey era — quits as England's assistant manager, and is all set to join Don Revie in the desert.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 3 — Liverpool; Forest; Blackburn; Brighton; Charlton; Oxford; Gillingham; Preston; Swindon; York.
TOTAL GOALS: 95.
HAT-TRICKS: None.
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div. 1, Forest; Div. 2, Bolton; Div. 3, Colchester; Div. 4, Aldershot.
HIGHEST GATE: 57,904 — Man. Utd. v. Ipswich.
TOTAL GATE: 594,447.
AVERAGE GATE: 14,153.

WALLACE'S MASTER STROKE

THE wrapping is still hardly off the new season and yet the names in the news are ones who will still be hitting the headlines at the end of a dramatic term.

Morton are already on top of the First Division, a position they will still hold when the final ball is kicked in 77-78.

Topping the Premier Division are Aberdeen, but Rangers, with two consecutive League defeats behind them, make big changes for a Second Round, first-leg, League Cup-tie against St Johnstone, which on paper looks as easy as they come.

But manager Jock Wallace is taking no chances and makes wholesale changes, dropping first team regulars Tommy McLean, Alex MacDonald and Derek Parlane. In comes 17-year-old unknown Derek McKay and Derek Johnstone as strikers. Rangers win 3-1.

The latter move was to prove Wallace's master stroke of the year with

Johnstone clinching nearly 40 goals and the Player of the Year award.

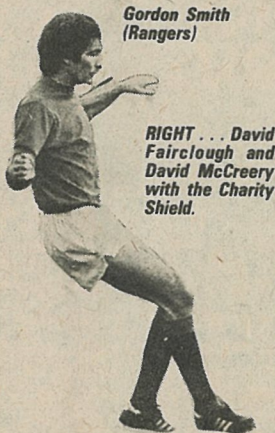
Motherwell beat Celtic 1-0 at Parkhead with a fabulous goal from ex-Celt Vic Davidson and Rangers thrash Partick Thistle 4-0 with new signing Gordon Smith notching a double.

Oh yes, and all the papers get it wrong about the venue for Scotland's vital World Cup tie against Wales on October 12th. "It's Villa Park," the headlines scream. They had to admit later it was a fair Kop!

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: (4) Rangers, Forfar
TOTAL GOALS: 49
HIGHEST GATE: Celtic v Motherwell 30,000
PREMIER LEAGUE TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 85,000
TABLE TOPPERS: Aberdeen

Gordon Smith
(Rangers)



RIGHT . . . David Fairclough and David McCreery with the Charity Shield.



LEFT . . . Ron Greenwood at an England training session.
INSERT . . . George Petchey.



1977-78 SEASON IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

Week Ending SEPTEMBER 3 . . .

FOREST ON FIRE

A GAIN there are calls for pitches to be fenced-in as the only foolproof safeguard against vicious hooligans — a spectator rushing on at West Ham to swing punches at Manchester City's Willie Donachie over the weekend sparking off the controversy once more.

Interestingly, Donachie blames the likes of Jimmy Hill & Co. He reckons detailed "analysis" of a televised incident the previous season has made him a marked man. City manager Tony Book — "I feel Willie is being persecuted by 'The Box' — clearly agrees.

There are two proposed six-figure moves early on in the week — one which comes off, and one which doesn't. Striker Billy Ashcroft goes from Wrexham to Middlesbrough for £120,000, but Liverpool's David Johnson turns down an agreed £160,000 move to Leicester.

The "Big Boys" come into the League Cup, but there are few real surprises in the Second Round — though Burnley, bottom of the Second Division, wallop unbeaten Norwich 3-1; and Millwall win 2-0 at Newcastle. The Forest fire keeps blazing with a 5-0 hammering of The Hammers; and Ipswich and Swindon also hit five. But three players sent-off spoil a quite goal-happy round.

It's a fair Kop as far as new England boss Ron Greenwood is concerned. He confirms rumours that he intends to use Euro-Champs Liverpool as the backbone of his side by naming six Anfielders in his 18-man squad for the Wembley friendly with Switzerland.

Ian Callaghan, out of the international fray for 11 years, is amongst them — plus another now-exiled Liverpoolian in Kevin Keegan.

The "knockers" are still knocking at six-points-out-of-six Forest; stressing that newly-promoted Carlisle were in

an identical happy situation three years ago — and ended-up relegated back again in bottom place. Will the Clough bubble burst, too?

Comes Saturday and, with it, new legislation which means thug-fans could be fined up to £1,000 for acts of violence. Says Sports Minister Denis Howell: "I want them to realise they are going to be hit, and hit hard."

On the field itself, there's crisis at Birmingham as point-less City crash to their fifth defeat in as many games. But manager Willie Bell is voted the Board's "full support" — as was his predecessor, Freddie Goodwin, not long before he was fired.

The Forest glitter is, at least momentarily, tarnished as they drop their first points in slumping 3-0 at Arsenal.

And there are some "crazy" results. Like Brentford winning 6-4 away at Crewe; and lowly, managerless Orient whacking Oldham 5-3. Not to mention West Ham, with an injury-list as long as a League table, fighting back from two-down in 20 minutes to win 3-2 at Newcastle; and Luton slamming Charlton 7-1.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 7 — Luton.
TOTAL GOALS: 114 (average 2.65 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: 2 — Husbard (Luton v. Charlton); Sweetzer (Brentford v. Crewe).
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div. 1, Man. City; Div. 2, Bolton; Div. 3, Colchester; Div. 4, Brentford.
HIGHEST GATE: 41,269 — Man. City v. Norwich.
TOTAL GATE: 490,710.
AVERAGE GATE: 11,411.

JOHNSTONE SENT-OFF

RANGERS, still smarting at the "insult" of having to play a preliminary round of the European Cup-Winners' Cup at all, fly home from Berne in Switzerland delighted with the result they take.

With only a solitary goal scored in the first-leg at Ibrox — in their favour — it looks tough for Jock Wallace's men against the Young Boys of Berne.

But Rangers draw 2-2 . . . although the cost is high. Derek Johnstone is sent-off for aiming a kick at Kuttel.

Bad news too for Scotland colleague Alan Rough who is dropped by Partick Thistle manager Bertie Auld for the game against Dundee United at Firhill. "His attitude is wrong," says Bertie. Thistle draw 0-0 and stand-in Billy Thomson has a great game.

Better tidings for St Mirren who are going well in the Premier Division. European Champions Liverpool announce they will be visiting Love Street to help celebrate the inauguration of the new Paisley floodlights later in the year.

The more cynical of the Saints fans suggest it is only Liverpool's way of getting St Mirren to sell them Bobby Reid.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: (6) Hamilton
TOTAL GOALS: 49 (League Cup)
HIGHEST GATE: Motherwell v Celtic 17,000
TABLE TOP: Aberdeen

Week Ending SEPTEMBER 10 . . .

'LIVERPOOL' ENGLAND

THE season is just over a fortnight old, Birmingham have so far failed to win a match — so manager Willie Bell joins the ranks of the unemployed. Explained his old Board (who'd professed their "full support" for Bell only a few days earlier!): "Urgent action is needed to get results."

By Tuesday, we're back on the international scene. Welsh World Cup hopes get a trifle oiled-up when they're surprisingly held to a 0-0 draw by Kuwait in a Wrexham friendly — but England get off to a great start in the European Under-21 Championship when a Peter Ward hat-trick leads the way to beating Norway 6-0 at Brighton.

Is Bob Latchford on the move? Seems Everton are prepared to let go their £350,000 star striker who's been in dispute over his contract. Derby, who've transfer-listed Charlie George, seem interested in a possible exchange deal.

Don Revie — remember he was the "Land of Hope & Glory" chap who used to run England? — hits the front (and many other) pages with allegations about how, when, and why he made his arrangements to pitch his tent in the desert instead.

Wednesday sees England's first full international of the season, and also the first with Ron Greenwood in charge. He picks all six Liverpool men in his squad, including "old-timer" Ian Callaghan, in his line-up to play Switzerland. It's a 0-0 draw, only 42,000 turn up to watch it — and, frankly, it's not terribly inspiring.

Sir Alf Ramsey — remember he was the chap who used to run England before Revie? — bounces back on the active soccer scene when he's persuaded to step down (or up?) from the Birmingham crisis boardroom to take

charge of team matters.

But, claims the only man to bring England the World Cup, it's just a temporary "caretaker" arrangement. And, as a director can't be paid under League regulations, he's doing it "for free".

George Best — remember him, too? — flies back to the States, quitting Fulham with the claim that they owe him "well over £10,000". And it's Star Wars between the two clubs for whom he's been playing, Fulham and Los Angeles Aztecs, while they're locked in contractual arguments.

Managers in a less happy position are Derby's Colin Murphy and Newcastle's Richard Dinnis. Their clubs are propping up the First Division table, with the inevitable rumblings of local discontent. Tommy Docherty, it's reckoned, could well be in line at Derby.

Few end-of-week shocks on the field itself. Manchester City and (hardly a surprise) Liverpool are now joint-leaders of the First Division — while Birmingham's win at Middlesbrough means everyone's got at least one point. But a convincing 5-1 Everton win at Leicester may prove a prediction of the fortunes to come for both clubs.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 5 — Everton.
TOTAL GOALS: 115.
HAT-TRICKS: None.
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div. 1, Man. City; Div. 2, Bolton; Div. 3, Colchester; Div. 4, Southend.
HIGHEST GATE: 50,856 — Man. City v. Man. Utd.
TOTAL GATE: 560,561.
AVERAGE GATE: 13,036.

CONSOLATION FOR SCOTLAND

S COTLAND'S World Cup plans take a blow in East Germany where Ally MacLeod's boys crash 2-0 in a friendly international. Davie Stewart of Leeds United, who once worked for Ally at Ayr United when the Scots boss was manager at Somerset, plays in goal to the exclusion of Alan Rough.

There is consolation, however, in the performance of the Under-21 team who defeat Switzerland 3-1 at Ibrox. It is a good win by young Scotland, but it still leaves them with a lot to do if they want to qualify for the final stages of the European Championship.

Victory against Czechoslovakia at Tynecastle later in the month is a must.

There are further shocks for Ally MacLeod who had been whipping up World Cup euphoria quite nicely. Manchester United skipper Martin Buchan announces that he isn't interested in

becoming skipper of his country.

And the problems of Alan Rough, who seemed to have made the Scottish goalkeeping place his own, are aggravated. He turns out for the Thistle reserve team and the players nearly outnumber the fans.

On the transfer front, Kilmarnock prepare to spend some of the cash they took from Rangers for Gordon Smith on Donnie McDowell of St Mirren.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: (4) Partick, Hearts
TOTAL GOALS: 53
HIGHEST GATE: Rangers v Celtic 45,000
TABLE TOP: Aberdeen
PREMIER LEAGUE TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 78,000

BELOW . . . Forest lost 3-0 at Highbury to Arsenal.

Willie Donachie (Man. City)

England had a disappointing 0-0 draw with Switzerland.

George Best (Aztecs)

Ron Saunders signs Tommy Craig . . . but the talented Scot was later sidelined with a knee operation.



SHOOT
turned the
spotlight on
two famous
Midland
rivals and
asked . . .

Manager RON SAUNDERS

WHY VILLA FAILED TO LAND A TOP HONOUR?

LAST SEASON Aston Villa took the footballing world by storm as they won the League Cup, clinched a place in Europe and galloped to fourth place in the First Division Championship race.

This term it was a bit different. The promise of a bumper season and shelf full of silverware, as so many pundits predicted, didn't materialise.

So what went wrong . . . why didn't they land a major honour? A question we put to Villa's Dennis Mortimer last week.

"And I'll give you the same answer as he did — injuries," said boss Ron Saunders. "We had a stack of them. Alex Cropley, John Gidman, Andy Gray, John Robson and Tommy Craig were all sidelined."

"But inspite of our injury pile up, we managed to stay above the middle of the First Division table. We reached the last eight of the U.E.F.A. Cup and were a little unfortunate not to beat Barcelona."

"It was a mixed season and by our own high standards, which we set in 1976-77, it wasn't good."

"We played some fine football, but only at times. If you can't send out a balanced team, then obviously you can't build up a rhythm."

This didn't help the individual players who occasionally turned in a below par performance.

"We're trying to build a squad up, but with all the injuries it's not been possible to get the full value from that squad."

"In 1976-77 we had 13 first teamers; now we've got 16 — when they're all fit."

"Possibly during the past three-and-a-half years Villa have had too much success. We've come on too quickly and we've not been able to keep up the strength of the squad in relation to that success."

Saunders has bought whilst in the top grade and the players that have arrived at Villa Park can only get better. The signing of Tommy Craig took his spending spree to a reported just over the million pound mark.

"We've bought players like Andy Gray, Gordon Smith, Jimmy Rimmer, Alex Cropley, Allan Evans and Dennis Mortimer. John Burridge we bought and sold again. I don't know whether it's gone over the million mark or not. If it has, then for that we've probably reaped about £4 million worth of talent. We've got value for money; there's no doubt about that."

How has Ron Saunders found

the transfer market? "Very difficult because there are not the players available. There are less good players in the game now than ever before."

"I don't think a club can buy success. If you're lucky with transfers, then it can help. But there's a lot more to it than just going out and spending money."

"Our youngsters are coming along fine. We gave about four debuts to different players this season, which is in keeping with the general policy. Some have been pitched in too early, but we haven't really had much choice."

Championship

Saunders makes no secret of the fact he wants a squad capable and big enough to win the First Division Championship — not just for one season, but for many seasons to come.

"I think you must aim for that day."

"It's a waste of time — a flash in the pan — winning the Championship and not being able to repeat the feat."

Should Villa buy a winger to provide Andy Gray the service that would boost his goal-power?

"It's all very well asking if we should buy a flankman, the question is — which one? Where is he?" says Saunders.

"I bought Tommy Craig to replace Alex Cropley, who broke a leg. He played three games, then was out with cartilage trouble."

Does the Villa style of play with Gidman and Smith overlapping not need wingers? "The style of play that you use is to make the most of the players available. That's what a manager gets paid to do and I'm doing just that."

Saunders viewed the postponements of January and February as a godsend.

"It gave us a rest because of the simple fact we had so many injuries."

But Ron Saunders wouldn't like to see a winter break and he has no wish to comment on international football or to take a stab at who's going to win the World Cup.

However, he did have this to say: "When I came here we had one international — that was Sammy Morgan. We've now got ten. So in three and a half years we've gone from one to ten, which isn't bad."

"Our fans didn't have a terrific amount to cheer about during the season just ended because we didn't play all that well . . . but they kept coming."

"We rate them as the best in the country. Those that travelled with us abroad in U.E.F.A. Cup-ties were a credit to English football and to themselves."

"My target for next season? To put the record straight and give them an Aston Villa team to be really proud of."

**Birmingham's new boss
JIM SMITH if he can**

WAKE UP SOCCER'S SLEEPING GIANT?

WHEN Jim Smith, Birmingham City's new manager, arrived at St Andrews, he walked straight into a hornets' nest.

The Blue Revolution was at its height. Francis and Gallagher wanted away and his former club Blackburn Rovers were doing their utmost to keep him at Ewood Park.

But "Gentleman Jim" took it all in his stride. "Even so, it was traumatic," he told SHOOT. "But football is traumatic all the time. It's a game of sorting problems out. We're winning a few; we're losing a few. But we're winning most of them, and that's what matters."

Jim's first impression of the second city club was, to put it bluntly, "A Sleeping Giant". So why did he take on the job... and can he wake up that giant?

"The main reason I accepted the task was the tremendous potential at St Andrews," he said. "It's a big city club and I've got the confidence in my ability to make it a successful one, and if we do then we'll have tremendous times here."

"When I landed the job I felt two opposite emotions, sadness at leaving Blackburn Rovers and super elation at joining Blues."

"I could have gone to one or two clubs in the past, but I never had that feeling it was the right one. I had the feeling from the beginning Birmingham was the right club for me."

Jim, 37, and born in Sheffield, got off to a dream start. In his first six matches Blues gathered ten points to put the team well out of the annual relegation battle.

How did Smith tackle the problem? "By being myself," he said. "I strode in with enthusiasm and showed my ambition and determination to do well. The players, fortunately, responded. They've been terrific."

'Delighted'

"It's great to have that kind of opening. I'm more than just pleased, I'm delighted."

Smith has been tagged as modest, blunt, enthusiastic and a typical Yorkshireman who knows what he wants and intends to get it.

How does he describe himself? "I don't really know," he answered. "I am a Yorkshireman and people from that part of the country do have a reputation for being honest and blunt; possibly I am. I'm confident, I know that."

"It's not a one-man band here at Birmingham as some people think. No one can go it alone in an 11 man team. There must be other players. All I can say in terms of the 'one-man band' with Trevor Francis is it's tremendous for any manager to have a world class player on his books, and I've got one. Added to which, I've got a lot of good players and that to me is the makings of a fine team."

"The size of our squad isn't very big. We've only got about 14 first teamers. We've got some good youngsters — Dillon, Fox,

Broadhurst and Sbragia. Naturally, that's very encouraging."

"Even in the first team we've got Calderwood, Bertschin and Gallagher — they're all young lads and, I might add, played very well. Tony Towers had a fine season. We've got the experienced players in Jim Montgomery, Terry Hibbitt and Gary Pendrey. They've all done tremendous jobs."

"I have a contract; some managers don't believe in them but I do."

"How do I motivate? I do this unconsciously. I don't sit down and think about it. I feel footballers should motivate themselves with the bonuses they're earning."

'Overlapping'

Smith preaches positive attacking football. "I like to use wingers and to be positive in everything I do," he says. "We play a 3-4-3 system with full-back, Jim Calderwood overlapping."

"I look for skill and enthusiasm. I've no time for the player who wants to be ambitious and successful without working for it. I like to see my team play well regardless of the result."

Any regrets at leaving Blackburn? "No, not really, because when all's said and done we are professional people. The biggest regret was having to leave a fabulous set of players."

What value does he place on his managerial apprenticeship at Boston, Colchester and Blackburn — clubs he left in better positions

than when he joined them?

"Football is one of the few games where people can become managers at the highest level without any previous training. If you look at the records, a person who has managed at every level has the best chance of being successful. He knows how to approach most problems. There's no substitute for experience, is there?"

Jim Smith sits in the stand during the first-half of the game to get a better view of the pattern of play. After the break he makes his way to the dug-out. "There's now't you can do then," he said crisply.

"The fans at Birmingham are tremendous and the potential of the big St Andrews throng having something to shout about fills me with more excitement than anything."

A straightforward answer to a straightforward question and the burning topic of the moment. Can Jim Smith keep Trevor Francis (featured in colour on page 25) at Birmingham? "Yes," he said without any hesitation whatsoever.

Have they the money to spend on new players?

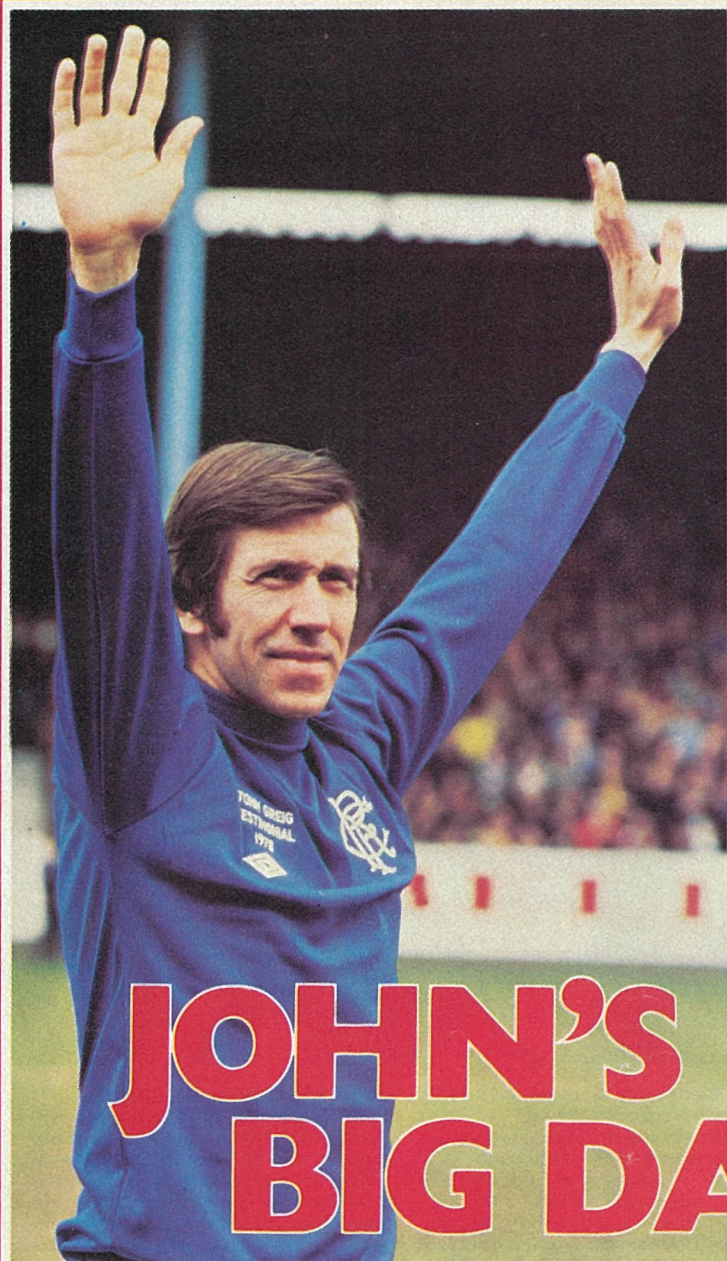
"Well, I've been told I have and I believe this to be true."

"The aim for Blues is to compete or arrive at the position where the second city should be and that's in the top six aiming for everything."

And with Jim Smith at the helm that long awaited day doesn't look too far off. We wish him every success.



JIMMY CALDERWOOD ... one of Blues' bright youngsters.



JOHN Greig, surely the greatest captain in Rangers' long and distinguished history, was rightly rewarded with a bumper testimonial game last month when the Light Blues played a Scotland XI. It was an exciting game and, surprisingly, Scotland lost 5-0, with the 35-year-old SHOOT columnist scoring twice. Greig took Rangers to yet another Championship victory last season. Best of luck, John — and congratulations on a marvellous career.

TOP OF PAGE . . . Rangers' sweeper Tom "Jaws" Forsyth marks fellow countryman Ian Wallace, the Coventry striker.

ABOVE . . . Scotland 'keeper Jim Blyth is under pressure from Colin Jackson as Bruce Rioch runs in.

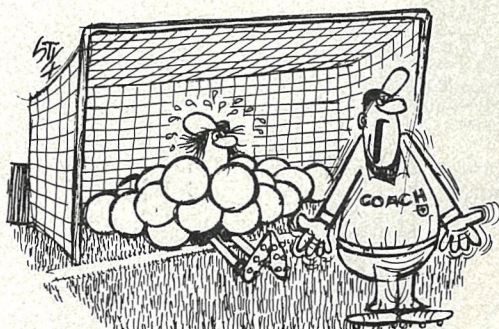
LEFT . . . Forest winger John Robertson made an impressive "Scotland debut" and we see him here with Rangers' full-back Sandy Jardine.

In a week or so Birmingham City superstar Trevor Francis will be flying out to the United States to play the summer season for the Detroit Express. He is the first really big-name star from the League to go on loan to an American soccer club, no doubt a sign of things to come. Here, Trevor gets into the mood in this American football outfit. Football as they know it is somewhat different from ours!



SHOOT!

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Look fellas — when you practise shooting — do it one at a time"



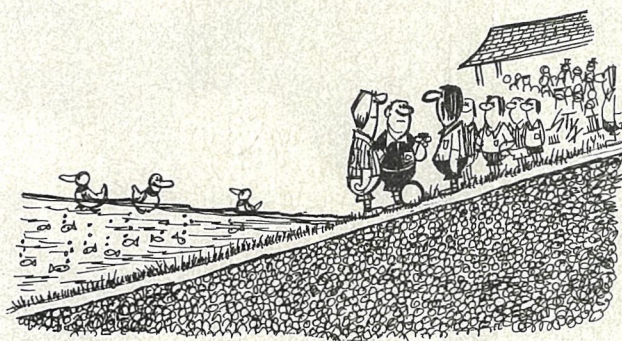
This week Bolton's RAY TRAIN selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I think he wants you to keep quiet, boss"



"Made me laugh — I told the manager you were looking bad and he said, 'What's new?'"



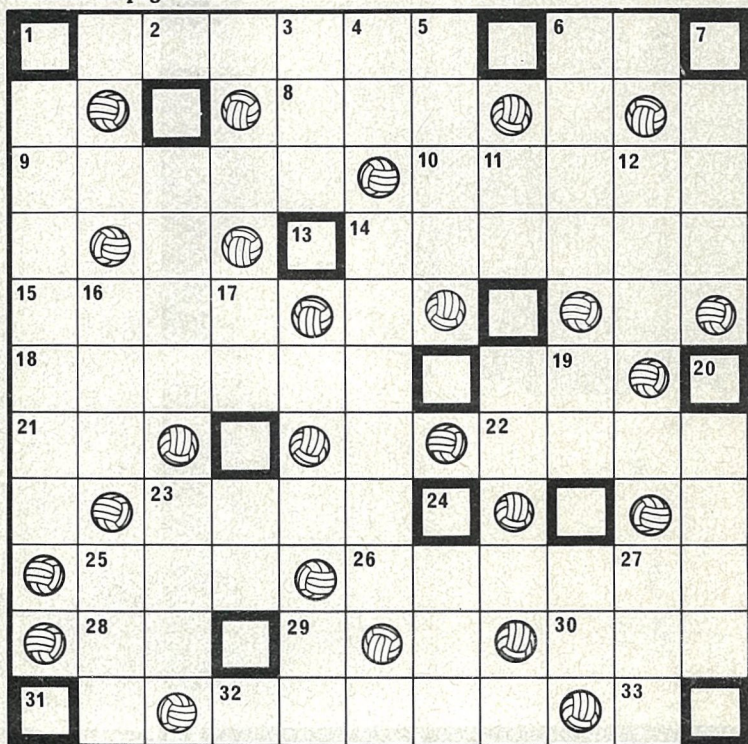
"I can understand the importance of us clearing up our large back-log of fixtures, ref — but..."



"Some rotter has sabotaged my whistle — stuffed up the hole with chewing gum"

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a West Ham player. Answers on page 42.



ACROSS:—

- (1) Nottingham Forest full-back. (3 & 8).
- (8) -pswich T-w-.
- (9) — Bell, Manchester City midfielder.
- (10) -oth-rh-- Unite-. Reverie from the omissions.
- (13) Indispensable quality or element (good sportsmanship, for example).
- (15) Pitt-d-i- -tadium (Aberdeen).
- (18) Leeds United striker. (3 & 6).
- (21) N--ian Park, ground of Cardiff City.
- (22) Go up high as the ball kicked hard into the air.
- (23) Selective instinct for what is good like playing soccer!
- (25) -w-ndon-own, from County Ground.
- (26) Brian —, Aston Villa striker.
- (28) Gait between walking and running.
- (30) Mick ---derson of Sunderland.
- (31) Rug-- Park, Kilmarnock.
- (32) Bel-- -ue Gr-u-d (Doncaster). New from the omissions reversed.
- (33) David B-r-on of Newcastle United.

DOWN:—

- (1) — Ground, home of Stoke City.
- (2) Hard shot, hit before the ball touches the ground.
- (3) Aston Villa have appeared in — F.A. Cup Finals.
- (4) Micky -r-y of Chelsea.
- (5) These are changed after half-time.
- (6) Take four letters from Queen's Park to give "perceived".
- (7) H--pd-- Park (home of above). Title from the missing letters.
- (11) Cyrille —, West Bromwich Albion striker.
- (12) P-rti-k-histle (Scots Premier Div.).
- (14) — Bank; ground of Lincoln City.
- (16) Terry Coch---e of Burnley.
- (17) Peter —, Nottingham Forest 'keeper.
- (19) -----ampton Town (English Div. Four).
- (20) English League club from Brisbane Road, London.
- (23) — Park, ground of Motherwell.
- (24) Pat —, Arsenal full-back.
- (25) Gre--- Road; Crewe Alexandra's ground.
- (27) O-dham Athl-tic play at Bound-ry Park.
- (29) -r-yes. French League club.

'NO WORLD CUP SUPERSTARS'

MILJAN MILJANIC, (right) former manager of Red Star Belgrade, Real Madrid and Yugoslavia — and a member of F.I.F.A.'s World Cup Technical Committee — believes we are coming into an era of teams without superstars.

Cruyff and Beckenbauer will not play in Argentina this summer and at the moment only Brazil's Rivelino, perhaps, has that truly great status of the Finalists.

Miljanic says: "I see the emphasis on what I call working football . . . the collective product will overshadow the individuals.

"There will be less superstars in the game than usual. It is dangerous for a team to rely so much on one player.

"Liverpool are the perfect example of the modern team.



They've lost two big stars, Keegan and Toshack, but they are just as effective.

"Liverpool have players who are constructive and destructive at the same time, all-round footballers.

"I've travelled to all 16 World Cup countries and everywhere I've been asked about Liverpool. If they were in the World Cup Finals, they could easily win the competition."

Miljanic was in London to observe the England/Brazil game and it's worth remembering his Red Star team were one of only two European sides to have won at Anfield.

He went on to praise the game in the United States.

"They are the last civilised nation to accept soccer and I see a big future for America.

"Everyone knows about the Cosmos, but the most significant factor is soccer is now being played extensively in schools.

"While I was there, I saw juniors showing the same degree of skill as I've seen in Brazilian youngsters.

"Black or white, the Americans are fast learners and in ten years I expect them to make their mark at international level."

WEST Germany manager Helmut Schoen has joined the long list of people who feel Scotland can do well in the World Cup. He says: "They will be eager to make up for the disappointment of 1974. Scotland have the right players for a competition like the World Cup."

SPAIN DEFENDER OUT OF WORLD CUP

SPAIN'S top defender Camacho, who manager Ladislao Kubala describes as "fundamental to Spain's World Cup plans", has had to be ruled out through injury. The Real Madrid left-back is still recovering after a ligament operation, and doctors have said he stands no chance of being match-fit in time for the Finals in Argentina.

CHURCHES in several parts of West Germany have sent letters to priests, etc. The letters include the television timetable of the World Cup Finals with advice to avoid these times when arranging services.

Argentina star paid by his F.A.



ARGENTINA left-back Alberto Tarantini (above) must be in a unique situation. He is without a club and is being paid by his F.A. while he is preparing for the World Cup Finals.

The 22-year-old defender, who has won 39 caps, could not agree terms with his club, South American Champions Boca Juniors.

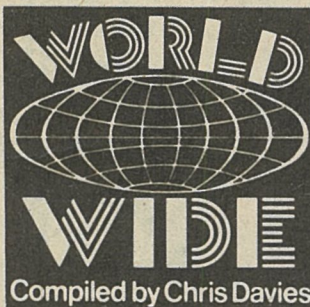
No new contract was signed, so Tarantini became a free agent. The Argentinian League is going on, although the clubs must do without World Cup players who are in training camp.

After several weeks of talks, the Argentina F.A. agreed to pay Tarantini a salary under contract until the end of the World Cup.

Then Tarantini will almost certainly join a Spanish club, although by private agreement I understand Boca will receive some sort of transfer fee for the tough-tackling full-back.

TWO weeks ago I reported Boca Juniors of Argentina had beaten América of Mexico in the InterAmerican Cup. Unfortunately, I misread the agency information. It said simply Boca had beaten América in the Final. What the agency report didn't say was the Final was, in fact, over two legs. For the record, Boca lost the return leg and América won the play-off.

WEST Germany goalkeeper Sepp Maier has signed a petition of Amnesty International for the release of political prisoners in Argentina.



Compiled by Chris Davies

SWISS club Young Fellows are in a bad way, winning just one of their 24 League games and, obviously, being relegated to Division Two. All 20 players have been put on the transfer list. Their last home game was watched by just 450 spectators and chairman Adi Gast revealed the club made a profit of . . . 19 pence on the match.

TORINO directors have promised to do "everything they can" to sign Antognoni of Fiorentina.

UNLUCKY JÜRGEN

JÜRGEN Rynio of I.F.C. St. Pauli must be West Germany's "bad luck" player. In 1967, as a teenager with Kaiserslautern, he was relegated. The next season he was transferred to Nuremberg — and they went down. In 1972 he moved on to Borussia Dortmund — and . . . yes . . . they were relegated. In 1973 he signed for Rot-Weiss Essen and two years later they went out of the Bundesliga. Still, Jürgen couldn't be blamed for Essen's relegation as by the time they went down he had signed for St. Pauli.

Oh yes, St. Pauli have been relegated this season!

ONLY 91 CAPS

THE record books show Rivelino has won more than 110 caps for Brazil. Many of these were in friendlies against club sides and state selections. His true total is somewhat less: the 32-year-old midfielder won his 91st official cap against England.

PSV became Champions of Holland by not losing any of their first 31 League games. When the Championship was clinched, the Eindhoven club lost their very next game 1-0 at Haarlem . . . and then their last match 2-3 at home to Ajax.

BRAZIL full-back Edinho (one of the Wembley hackers) says he's "looking forward to meeting up with Spanish winger Juanito," when the two countries meet on June 7th in Mar del Plata.

But it doesn't sound as though Edinho wants to shake Juanito's hand exactly.

"He intentionally kicked me on the head during the 1976 Olympics," explains the Brazilian, "and I haven't forgotten."

Hertha BSC, the West German Bundesliga club, recently came off badly in their friendly (which they won 2-1) against Holland's Feyenoord. The Dutch club were guaranteed 50,000 DM, and the receipts from a 3,000 crowd were only 10,000 DM.



THIS is SWARM . . . the forward-line of Tampa Bay Rowdies. The name comes from the initials of the five goal-men and four of them will be familiar to British fans. SWARM are: Derek Smethurst, Steve Wergerle, Adrian Alston, Davie Robb and Rodney Marsh.

Town jet standing by in Argentina equipped with an intensive care unit with doctors and nurses available. If one of Holland's players is seriously injured, the plane can fly back to the Netherlands and return to Argentina within 40 hours.

SHOOT: Congratulations on your appointment as captain of Argentina for the World Cup Finals. Were you surprised?

PASSARELLA: Surprised? No, I was astonished. I never dreamt such an honour would be bestowed upon me, especially in the most important competition there has ever been in my country. When manager Cesar Menotti broke the news to me I wept with joy.

SHOOT: You are still only 24-years-old, and one of the youngest members of the Argentina squad. Does the responsibility of the job frighten you?

PASSARELLA: No, I can say with

honesty I am not worried. It is my job to get a good spirit in the team, and to try and get the team playing on the field as senior Menotti would like us to. I don't think age is important. If the other players respect a captain through his own performances they will not mind taking orders — in any case I think we have a good squad who will all help me.

SHOOT: You say the spirit must be good, yet you have had problems with some of your star players recently.

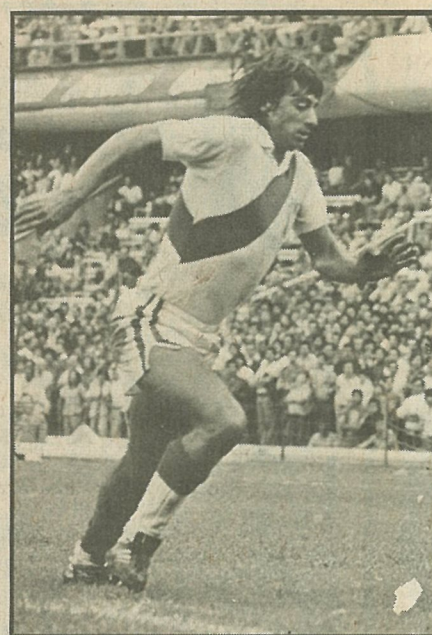
PASSARELLA: That is true, but I am sure once the squad is settled we will have no more problems, because we will all have one goal

— to win the World Cup in front of our own supporters.

SHOOT: What were the reasons for the widely-reported troubles among some of the players?

PASSARELLA: I can only tell you what I know, and, of course, Cesar Menotti could probably tell you more, but I understand Jorge Carrascosa, who was our captain last year, asked for permission to miss our training session in Mar del Plata, because his wife was expecting a baby.

Later it was said Jorge had walked out because of a pay dispute, and our goalkeeper Hugo Gatti also left the training camp. He didn't seem fully fit and apparently he wasn't too happy about



SHOOT: Both Gatti and Carrascosa are very experienced players. Their loss will surely affect your chances of winning the World Cup.

PASSARELLA: Obviously we will miss anybody who has played so often for their country as Jorge and Hugo have, but we have three more good goalkeepers to choose from — Hector Baley, of Huracan, Ricardo Lavolpe, of San Lorenzo, and Ubaldo Fillol, of my own club River Plate. They have all played international football before, and would not let us down.

SHOOT: How pleased is Cesar Menotti with the way your preparations have been going?

PASSARELLA: He was not at all happy a few weeks ago, but suddenly everything seemed to click in our first game with Peru, which we won 2-1, and then in our return match a few days later we were even more impressive, winning 3-1, so I think he is now quite pleased with our progress.

SHOOT: Peru aren't expected to be one of the stronger teams in the World Cup though are they?

PASSARELLA: No they did not impress us. They seemed to be short of confidence, but at the same time it is good to beat anyone and those results have cer-

No. 15 Daniel Passarella ARGENTINA

*'pleased
with our
progress'*

the money he was going to earn either. Two other players, Ruben Galvan and Omar Larrosa, who both play for Independiente, had a cloud over their names because they attacked a referee in a League play-off. However, I understand that incident against Talleres, of Cordoba, will not prevent them playing in the World Cup. I hope not because both are very good players.



BACK ROW: Passarella, Houseman, Bottaniz, Pagnanini, Luis Galvan, Fillol.
FRONT ROW: Gallego, Ardiles, Luque, Villa and Bertoni.





ABOVE ... Argentina "clicked" in this game against Peru, winning 2-1. Leguia of Peru (left) and Ortiz in action.

RIGHT ... Passarella celebrates a goal against Scotland last year.

BELOW ... Hugo Gatti, nicknamed 'El Loco' (The Madman) won't be in Argentina's World Cup team.



tainly helped our morale. We have read about countries like Sweden, Spain, Scotland and Austria winning warm-up matches, but they will have read about our victories too, so it seems everyone is in pretty good shape for June. There won't be many poor teams around will there?

SHOOT: That's true, but you must have been disappointed to be drawn in such a tough group.

PASSARELLA: Yes, I cannot deny we were hoping for an easier passage into the last eight. Even Cesar Menotti was a little dispirited when we came out together with Italy, France and Hungary, but then he has told us if we are to win the World Cup, and we certainly aim to do that, we will have to beat these teams some time. I think that is the best way of looking at it.

SHOOT: Which of those countries

do you think will qualify in Group One?

PASSARELLA: That is the hardest question yet, but obviously Argentina will be one. The host country has always done well and we don't intend to alter that tradition. We played France last summer and they held us to a 0-0 draw, but we weren't exactly playing our best football at the time. We also drew with England and Scotland and lost to West Germany, so although we beat Poland, East Germany and Yugoslavia, our confidence wasn't very high.

I have not been very impressed with what I have seen of Italy either, although I think Bettiga and Antognoni can be very dangerous players. I believe Hungary may be the strongest team in the group

— after Argentina, of course.

SHOOT: As the host country you will be under considerable pressure to win won't you?

PASSARELLA: That is only to be expected, after all Uruguay, Italy, England and West Germany all won in their own country, but that really gives us a tremendous incentive to do well. I would rather be in our position than all those European countries who know that they have never won in South America.

SHOOT: In 1974 Argentina surprised a few people with their attacking football. Will the fear of losing in front of your fans make you more defensive-minded this time?

PASSARELLA: We are not afraid of losing. We do not go into any game with that attitude. That would be suicidal. I hope we will be able to play attractive football because we have some very skilful players, and it would be a tragedy if they were restricted.

SHOOT: You have a reputation for going up into the attack and scoring a few goals yourself Daniel. Can we expect to see you charging upfield?

PASSARELLA: Certainly. I love to score goals like all defenders whose main job is to stop other people scoring. I managed quite a few for River Plate last season from penalties, free-kicks, corners and even one or two from 30 yards. It is one of my personal ambitions to score at least one goal in the World Cup.

SHOOT: This is your first World Cup. Will you be more nervous because of the importance of the competition?

PASSARELLA: I expect my knees

FOCUS ON



LEOPOLDO LUQUE RIVER PLATE

FULL NAME: Leopoldo Jacinto Luque

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe, Northern Argentina

BIRTHDATE: 3rd May, 1949

HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins

WEIGHT: 11st 5lb

MARRIED: Yes

PREVIOUS CLUB: Union de Santa Fe

CAR: Peugeot

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Johan Cruyff

FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: River Plate!

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Rolf Rüssmann of West Germany

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Argentina 5, Hungary 1 last year

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring goals

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the Final of the Copa

Libertadores in 1976 to Cruzeiro of Brazil

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: West Germany

FAVOURITE FOOD: Italian pastas

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES:

Driving, fishing

MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: To be away from my family for any length of time

FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Action programmes like Kojak

FAVOURITE SINGER: Jose

Manuel Serrat (a Catalan singer)

FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:

Yul Brynner, Jane Fonda

BEST FRIENDS: I have several from my Unión days

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON

CAREER: My wife has always

helped me a lot

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:

Playing a full season and not scoring as many goals as expected

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:

Regular for the past two years, around 30 caps

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be

successful and help my family

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To be a World Champion with Argentina and help River Plate win the Copa Libertadores (South American Cup)

IF YOU WEREN'T A

FOOTBALLER WHAT DO YOU

THINK YOU'D BE? A Formula One

racing driver

WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD

WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO

MEET? In sport, Pele

will tremble when I lead my country out against Hungary for our first match in the River Plate Stadium on June 2nd, but once the referee blows that whistle I'm sure I will be all right. I'm hoping one or two of the players who were in Germany four years ago, will still be around to calm the nerves of the younger players.

SHOOT: Some people are saying Argentina will be helped by the referees who will be frightened to give decisions against you because of the crowds.

PASSARELLA: I seem to remember one coming up at every World Cup. People in South America will tell you referees helped England win the World Cup in 1966. I think it can often work the other way. Referees are so determined not to be seen favouring the home teams they give ridiculous decisions against them. All I can say is the referees have the hardest job of all in the World Cup. I'm only glad I'm playing instead of blowing the whistle.

SHOOT: If Argentina don't win the World Cup, who do you think will be holding the trophy on June 25th?

PASSARELLA: I honestly think we will win and I'll be holding that fabulous trophy myself — but as you've put me on the spot I suppose I have to say Brazil. I don't think they have as many great players as they had when Pele and Jairzinho were around, but I expect a South American side to win again, with Holland the best of the European challengers. I'll tell you one thing: Tunisia have no chance, and we're not letting the oil sheiks of Iran strike it rich in our country, either!

Next Week
LASZLO FAZEKAS
Hungary

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

THIRD DIVISION

(Continued)

GILLINGHAM 0
WREXHAM 0 10,978
Gillingham: Hillyard; Knight, Armstrong, Overton, Young, Crabbe, Nicholl, Weatherly, Price, Westwood, Richardson.
Wrexham: Davies; Hill, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts, Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Lyons, Whittle, Cartwright.

HEREFORD (0) 0
SHEFF. WED (0) 1 (Wyld) 5,358
Hereford: Mellor; Price, Burrows, Cornes, Layton, Sheedy, Stephens, Emery, Crompton, Barton, Spiring.
Sheff. W: Bolder; Walden, Grant, Rushbury, Dowd, Mullen, Wyld, Hornsby, Tynan, Johnson, Porterfield.

OXFORD (0) 1 (Seacole)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Walker) 3,296
Oxford: Burton; Kingston, Fogg, Briggs, Bodell, Jeffrey (White), Seacole, Taylor, Foley, Duncan, McGrogan.
Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt, Burton, Chamberlain, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Fern, Simpson, Kowalski, Walker.

PRESTON (0) 0
PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Robson) 9,695
Preston: Tunks; McMahon, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, Cross, Coleman, Haslegrave, Thomson, Elwiss, Bruce.
Peterborough: Waught; Hindley, Hughes, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Slough, McEwan, Butlin, Anderson, Robson.

ROTHERHAM (1) 2 (Goodfellow, Finney)
PORT VALE (0) 0 3,707
Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Goodfellow, Nix.
Port Vale: Connaughton; Lumsdon (Bailey), Griffiths, Dulson, Harris, Hawkins, Ridley, Lamb, Beamish, Moore, Chamberlain.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Crosby, Brodie)
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Martin) 3,353
Aldershot: Johnson; Crosby, Wooler, Dixon, Howitt (Hooper), Jopling, Longhorn, Brodie, Bell, Dungworth, McGregor.
Northampton: Parton; Geidmintis, Mead, Best, Robertson, Bryant, Farrington, Wassell, Martin, McGowan, Liddle (Christie).

DARLINGTON (0) 2 (Jones, Maitland)
CREWE (0) 0 1,115
Darlington: Burleigh; Crosson, Cochrane, Stone, Craig, Hague, Maitland, Young, Jones, Seal, Wann.
Crewe: Crudgington; Bevan, (Collier), Cheetham, Lugg, Bowles, Rimmer, Davies (D), Purdie, Coyne, Davies (W), Hollinshead.

DONCASTER (1) 1 (Habbin)
TORQUAY (0) 0 1,440
Doncaster: Peacock; Cannell, Robinson, Laidlaw, Gray, Taylor, Olney, Snodin, (Bowden), Owen, Habbin, Bentley.
Torquay: Wake; Twitchin, Parsons, Raper, Green, Boulton, Tomlin, (Cooper), Lawrence, Darke, Brown, Coffill.

GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Brolly, Donovan)
SOUTHEND (0) 0 3,505
Grimsby: Wainman; Mawer, Moore, Waters, Hanvey, Booth, Liddell, Ford, Donovan, Cumming, Brolly.
Southend: Freeman; Banks, Yates, Laverick, Moody, Young, Franklin, Pountney, Parker, Abbott (Goodwin), Morris.

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 (Butler)
BRENTFORD (0) 3 (Phillips 3) 6,345
Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Sutton, Branagan, Butler, Hart, Howey (Eccles), Johnson, Gray.
Brentford: Bond; Allen, Tucker, Shrubbs, Kruse, Graham (W), Lloyd, Graham (J), Allder, McCulloch, Phillips.

NEWPORT 0
READING 0 2,333
Newport: Turner; Steel, Relish, Emanuel, Walker (R), Aizlewood, Guscott (Jones), Goddard, Clark, McLaughlin, Williams.

Reading: Turner; Peters, White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Nelson, (Kearney), Kearns, Lewis, Davies.

ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Esser 2)
SOUTHPORT (0) 1 (O'Neil) 1,026
Rochdale: Slack; Hallows, Hart, Seddon, Scott, Bannon, Scaife, O'Loughlin, Esser, Owen, Tarbuck.
Southport: Cumbe; Kisby, Gay, O'Neil, Brooks, Fisher, Hilton, Wilson, Howarth (Brookfield), Jones, Cooper.

SWANSEA (3) 8 (James (R) 3, 1 pen, Toshack, Curtis 3, Lally)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 6,961
Swansea: Barber; Evans, Bartley, Lally (Morris), May, Bruton, Moore (K), James (R), Curtis, Toshack, Chappell.
Hartlepool: Richardson; Malone (Smith T.), Creamer, Gibb, Ayre, Smith (G), Gaffney, Linacre, Houchen, Foggon, Bielby.

WATFORD (0) 2 (Mayes, Pritchett pen.)
WIMBLEDON (0) 0 11,212
Watford: Rankin; How, Pritchett, Booth (Blissett), Bolton, Garner, Downes, Mayes, Jenkins, Joslyn, Pollard.
Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Eames, Briley, Galvin, Donaldson, Denny (Galliers), Bassett, Connell, Cork, Parsons.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

AYR (0) 0
MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Pettigrew) 2,759
Ayr: McGiffen; Wells, Connor, McSherry, Fleming, Kelly, McCall, McLaughlin, Master-ton, McCulloch, Cramond (Hannah).
Motherwell: Rennie; Watson, Wark, Millar, McLaren, Stevens, Marinello, Pettigrew, Clinging, Davidson, Mungall.

CELTIC (1) 2 (Glavin, Edvaldsson)
ABERDEEN (0) 2 (Davidson, Sullivan) 24,000
Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Dowie, Glavin, Edvaldsson, McAdam, Burns, Doyle (McCluskey).
Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Ritchie, McMaster, Garner, Millar, Sullivan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Davidson.

HIBS (2) 3 (Hutchinson, Duncan, McLeod)
PARTICK (1) 1 (O'Hara) 6,210
Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Smith, McNamara, Stewart, Bremner, Murray, McLeod, Hutchinson, Duncan, Higgins.
Partick: Rough; Anderson, Whittaker, Campbell, McAdam, Marr, Houston, Gibson, O'Hare, Somner (Melrose), Craig (Love).

RANGERS (1) 1 (Johnstone)
ST MIRREN (1) 1 (McGarvey) 23,000
Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean (Cooper), Hamilton (Miller), Johnstone, Smith, Parlane.
St Mirren: McCulloch; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Reid, Copland, Abercrombie, Stark (Leonard), Bone (Torrance), Richardson, McGarvey.
Postponed: Dundee Utd v Clydebank.



Tony Gale scored for Fulham and Notts County in a 1-1 draw at Meadow Lane.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Kemp, Bonnyman)
EXETER (0) 0 3,693
Carlisle: Swinburne; Collins, McCartney, MacDonald, Savvyers (McLean), Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Tait, Kemp, Hamilton.
Exeter: Key; Templeman, Hore, Delve, Giles, Hatch, Saxton (Jennings), Kellow, Randell, Bowker, Holman.

TRANMERE 0
BURY 0 2,898
Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Flood, Parry, Philpotts, Palios, Tynan, Bramhall, Moore, James, Evans.
Bury: Forrest; Keenan, Kennedy, Hatton, Thomson, Farrell, Stanton, Suddick, Rowland, Robins, McIlwraith.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (Raynor o.g.)
CHESTER (2) 2 (Howat, Mellor) 19,125
Wrexham: Davies; Hill, Dwyer, Davis, Roberts (Cegielski), Thomas, Shinton, Sutton, Lyons, Whittle, Cartwright.
Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Raynor, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Howat, Livermore, Delgado, Mellor, Phillips.

FOURTH DIVISION

BRENTFORD (2) 4 (Phillips 2, McCulloch 2)
STOCKPORT (0) 0
Brentford: Bond; Allen, Tucker, Shrubbs, Kruse, Graham (W), Carlton, Graham (J), Allder, McCulloch, Phillips.
Stockport: Rogan; Lawler, Rutter, Thompson (Massey), Smith, Park, Jackson, Halford, Summerbee, McBeth, Howard.

DARLINGTON 0
TORQUAY 0 1,359
Darlington: Burleigh; Crosson, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Maitland, Wann, Jones, Seal, Young.
Torquay: Wake; Twitchin, Parsons, Raper, Boulton, Dunne, Tomlin, Lawrence, Cooper, Vassallo (Coffill), Darke.

SOUTHEND (3) 4 (Moody 2, 1 pen, Morris, Yates)
DONCASTER (0) 0 5,644
Southend: Freeman; Banks, Yates, Laverick, Townsend, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Abbott, Fell (Goodwin).
Doncaster: Peacock; Robinson, Hemsley, Laidlaw, Gray, Taylor, Cannell, Owen, Habbin, Olney, Bentley (Bowden).

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

FIRST DIVISION

COVENTRY 0
NEWCASTLE 0 22,135
Coventry: Blyth; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Osgood, Beck, Wallace, Green, Powell, Hutchison.
Newcastle: Mahoney; Blackhall, Kennedy, Barton, Nattrass, Nulty, Barrowclough, Burns, McGhee, Callaghan, Scott.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 (Shearer 2)
CHELSEA (0) 0 15,288
Middlesbrough: Brown; Bailey, Johnston, Mahoney, Boam, Ramage, Mills, Cummins, Shearer, McAndrew, Armstrong.
Chelsea: Bonetti; Locke, Harris, Britton, Hay, Wicks, Finnieston, Swain, Langley, Lewington, Walker.

SECOND DIVISION

CHARLTON 0
CARDIFF 0 5,500
Charlton: Wood; Berry, Warman, Tydeman, Shipperley, Dugdale, Powell, Robinson, Flanagan, Peacock, Gritt.
Cardiff: Healey; Thomas, Pethard, Campbell, Pontin, Larmour, Grapes, Dwyer, Bishop, Went, Buchanan.

NOTTS CO (1) 1 (Gale o.g.)
FULHAM (0) 1 (Gale) 7,378
Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Chapman, Benjamin, Hunt, Carter, Sims, Bradd, McVay, Vinter.
Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Lacy, Gale, Greenaway, Mahoney, Mitchell, Margerrison, Evanson.

OLDHAM (2) 4 (Taylor 3, Young)
BRISTOL R (0) 1 (Randall) 7,192
Oldham: Platt; Wood, Holt, Gardner, Hicks, Hurst, Valentine, Taylor, Young (Edwards, P), Chapman, Blair.
Bristol R: Thomas; Aitken, Bater, Day (Foreman), Taylor, Williams, Barry, Pulis, Gould, White, Randall.

ORIENT 0
BLACKBURN 0 7,072
Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Headley, Roeder, Godfrey, Gray, Mayo, Kitchen, Bennett.
Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Metcalfe, Keeley, Waddington, Brotherston, Lewis, Taylor, Parkes, Wagstaffe.

SHEFF. UTD (1) 2 (Speight, Cutbush)
BRIGHTON (0) 0 13,342
Sheff. U: Brown; Cutbush, Calvert, Speight, Franks, Flynn, Woodward, Keeley, Edwards, Hamson, Stainrod.
Brighton: Steele; Tiler, Williams, Horton, Winstanley, Lawrenson, Townner, Sayer, Poskett, Clark, O'Sullivan (Potts).

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Kerr)
STOKE (0) 0 11,161
Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Kerr, Clarke, Ashurst, Armstrong, Docherty, Lee, Rostron (Gilbert), Rowell.
Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott (Conroy), Kendall, Smith, Dodd, Waddington, Richardson, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Busby.

THIRD DIVISION

COLCHESTER (0) 2 (Gough, Leslie)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 0 3,303
Colchester: Walker; Cook, Williams, Leslie, Packer, Dowman, Foley, Gough, Dyer, Allinson, Evans.
Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt, Burton, Chamberlain, Cottam, O'Neill, Cammack, Fern, Simpson, Walker, Kowalski.

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Price)
PORT VALE (0) 1 (Beamish) 7,627
Gillingham: Hillyard; Knight (Walker), Hughes, Overton, Young, Crabbe, Nicholl, Weatherly, Price, Westwood, Richardson.
Port Vale: Connaughton; Bentley, Griffiths, Ridley, Harris, Dulson, Chamberlain (Sproson), Bromage, Beamish, Moore, Bailey.

PETERBOROUGH (1) 5 (Robson 2, McEwan, Turner, Anderson)
BRADFORD C (0) 0 5,825
Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Hughes, Doyle, Turner, Ross, Slough, McEwan, Butlin, Anderson, Robson.
Bradford C: Downsborough; Podd, Spark, Hardcastle (Cooke), Baines, Middleton, Watson, Dolan, Wright, McNiven, Hutchins.

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Fear pen.)
SHEFF. WED (1) 1 (Wyld) 7,694
Plymouth: Barron; Harrison, Uzzell, Bason (James, T), Foster, Horswill, Rogers, Taylor, Binney, Fear, Trusson.
Sheff. W: Bolder; Walden, Grant, Rushbury, Dowd, Mullen, Wyld, Porterfield, Tynan, Johnson, Hornsby.

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
OXFORD (0) 2 (Taylor o.g., Seacole) 5,825
Portsmouth: Middleton; Wilson, Taylor, Ellis, Foster, Denyer, Pullar, Lathan, Garwood, Piper (S), McCaffrey (Mellows).
Oxford: Burton; Kingston, Fogg, Briggs, Bodell, Jeffrey, McGrogan, Taylor, Foley, Seacole, Duncan.

PRESTON (1) 1 (Paul o.g.)
WALSALL (0) 0 11,239
Preston: Tunks; McMahon, Cameron, Burns, Baxter, Cross, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Elwiss, Bruce.
Walsall: Kearns; Paul, Caswell, Wood, Serella, Harrison (Penn), Dennehy, Evans, Austin, Buckley, Birch.

ROTHERHAM 0
SHREWSBURY 0 4,262
Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Goodfellow, Nix.
Shrewsbury: Mulhearn; King, Bowers, Lindsay, Keay, Hayes, Irvine, Maguire, Atkins (Griffin), Biggins, Louganane.

SWINDON 0
CAMBRIDGE 0 6,774
Swindon: Allan; McLaughlin, Ford, Trollope, Carter, Prophet, Moss, Kamara, Guthrie, McHale, Cunningham.

Cambridge: Webster; Howard, Buckley, Stringer, Fallon, Sweetzer, Streete, Spriggs, Morgan (Adams), Finney, Biley.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (1) 1 (Dungworth) 6,756
READING (1) 1 (Davies)
 Aldershot: Johnson; Crosby, Wooler, Dixon, Earls, Jopling, Longhorn, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.
 Reading: Turner; Peters (Kearney), White, Bowman, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Nelson, Kearns, Lewis, Davies.

BARNLEY (2) 3 (Joicey pen., Prendergast, Warnock)
HALIFAX (0) 2 (Lawson, Bullock) 6,150
 Barnley: Springett; Murphy, Collins (Nixon), Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Warnock, Prendergast, Joicey, Little, Millar.
 Halifax: Leonard; Bradley, Loska, Smith, Burke, Trainer, Firth, Flavell, Bullock, Lawson, Bell.

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Impey)
WATFORD (0) 2 (Pollard, Downes) 6,532
 Bournemouth: Baker; Butler, Miller, Impey, Brown, Riley (Borthwick), Johnson, Showers, Finnigan, Lennard, Paterson.
 Watford: Rankin; How, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Downes, Mayes, Jenkins, Joslyn, Pollard.

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Bryant) 3,488
 Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Sutton, Branagan, Butler (Goldthorpe), Hart, Eccles, Johnson, Gray.
 Northampton: Jayes; Geidmintis, Mead, Best, Robertson, Bryant, Farrington, Williams, McGowan, Martin, Wassell.

ROCHDALE (0) 0
HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 (Houchen) 1,036
 Rochdale: Slack; Hallows, Hart, Seddon, Scott, Bannon, Tarbuck, Scaife, Owen, Esser, O'Loughlin.
 Hartlepool: Edgar; Creamer, Downing, Gibb, Ayre, Smith (G), Smith (T), Linacre, Houchen (Gaffney), Foggion, Bielby.

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Kilmore 2)
NEWPORT (0) 0 2,457
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; Davy, O'Donnell, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Keeley, Lumby, Wigg.
 Newport: Turner; Byrne, Relish, Aizlewood, Walker (R), Jones, Guscott, Goddard (Lownes), Sinclair, Walker (S), Williams.

SOUTHPORT (0) 0
SWANSEA (1) 3 (James, A., Curtis, Toshack) 2,750
 Southport: Cumbs; Kisby, Snookes, O'Neil, Brooks, Fisher, Cooper (Birchall), Wilson, Jones, Gay, Brookfield.
 Swansea: Barber; Evans, Bartley, James (A), May, Morris, Moore, James (R), Curtis, Toshack, Chappell.

WIMBLEDON (1) 2 (Leslie, Parsons pen.)
GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Partridge, Lester) 2,380
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Eames, Briley, Galvin, Donaldson, Leslie, Denny, Connell, Cork, Parsons.
 Grimsby: Wainman; Mawer, Booth, Waters, Moore, Hanvey, Ford, Lester, Donovan (Partridge), Cumming, Broily.

YORK (1) 1 (McDonald)
CREWE (1) 1 (Coyne) 1,415
 York: Brown; Clements, Hutt, Scott, Topping, Bainbridge, Novacki, Hunter, Randall, McDonald, Staniforth.
 Crewe: Crudginton; Bevan, Cheetham, Lugg, Bowles, Rimmer, Davies (D), Roberts, Coyne, Davies (W), McGinley.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

ABERDEEN (2) 2 (Harper 2)
PARTICK (1) 1 (Frame) 16,000
 Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Ritchie, McMaster, Garner, Miller, Sullivan, Archibald (Strachan), Harper, Jarvie, Davidson.
 Partick: Rough; McAdam, Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Craig (Mackie), Love, O'Hara, Frame, Somner, McQuade.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL (second-leg)

ITALY (0) 0
ENGLAND (0) 0 in Rome 45,000

Italy: Galli; Collovati, Cabrini, Sala (P), Manfredonia, Galbiati, Rossi, Di Bartolomei, Giordano, Agostinelli, Bagni (Fanna).
 England: Corrigan; Daniel, Peach, Reid, Sims, Futcher (P), Reeves, Williams, Hoddle, Owen, Barnes.

(England U-23's won on a 2-1 aggregate)

INTERNATIONAL

EIRE (4) 4 (Treacy 2, McGee, Giles)
TURKEY (0) 2 (Onder, Cemil) at Dublin 12,000
 Eire: Peyton; Langan, Synnott, Holmes, Daly (M), Daly (G), Giles, Grimes, McGee, Treacy, Ryan.
 Turkey: Rasim; Turgay, Erdogan, Neati, Erol, Onder, Engin, Volkan, Ali Kemal, Cemil, Sedat.

FIRST DIVISION

ASTON VILLA (0) 0
NOTTINGHAM (0) 1 (Woodcock) 44,215
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Smith, Phillips, McNaught, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Gray, Cowans, Carrodus.
 Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Barrett, O'Hare, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson.

EVERTON (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (Johnson) 52,759
 Everton: Wood; Darracott, Pejic, Lyons, Jones, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, McKenzie, Thomas.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Smith, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Dalglish, Case, Heighway, McDermott, Johnson.

SECOND DIVISION

Postponed: Millwall v Mansfield; Fulham v Southampton.

THIRD DIVISION

HEREFORD (0) 1 (Marshall)
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Wigginton) 3,974
 Hereford: Mellor; Price, Burrows, Cornes (Marshall), Layton, Barton, Stephens, Sheedy, Crompton, Spiring, Emery.
 Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Leigh (Fleming), Neale, Wigginton, Cooper, Jones, Graham, Harford, Hubbard, Harding.

SCOTTISH CUP (Semi-Final)

RANGERS (0) 2 (Johnstone, Greig)
DUNDEE UTD (0) 0 at Hampden Park 25,619
 Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Greig, Forsyth, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Johnstone (Parlane), Smith (Miller), Cooper.
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Rennie (Robinson), Kopel, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Struck, Kirkwood, Bourke, Holt, Payne (Forsyth).

SCOTTISH PREMIER

CELTIC (0) 2 (McCluskey 2)
HIBS (0) 1 (McLeod pen.) 10,000
 Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, Aitken, Dowie, McDonald, Burns, Glavin, Edvaldsson, McCluskey, McAdam, Doyle.
 Hibs: McDonald; Brownlie, Smith, McNamara, Stewart, Bremner, Murray, McLeod, Hutchinson, Duncan, Higgins.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

SECOND DIVISION

FULHAM (1) 1 (Lacy)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Funnell) 16,915
 Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Lacy, Gale, Greenaway, Money, Mitchell, Evanston, Margerrison.
 Southampton: Wells; Andruszewski, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Pickering, Ball, Boyer, MacDougall, Holmes, Funnell.

FOURTH DIVISION

SOUTHEND (2) 2 (Laverick, Townsend)
DARLINGTON (0) 0
 Southend: Freeman; Banks, Yates, Laverick, Townsend, Moody, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Abbott, Fell.
 Darlington: Burleigh; Crosson, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Young, Maitland, Lyon, Jones, Stone, Wann.

SOUTHPORT (1) 4 (Wilson, O'Neil 2, Gay)
YORK (0) 1 (Novacki) 1,296



Scottish international keeper Jim Blyth kept goal for Coventry in their 3-2 win v. Everton.

Southport: Cumbs; Kisby, Snookes, O'Neil, Brooks, Fisher, Birchall, Wilson, Jones, Gay, Brookfield.
 York: Brown; Clements, Hutt, Scott, Topping, James, Novacki, Hope, Randall (Taylor), McDonald, Staniforth.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

F.A. CUP (Semi-Finals)

IPSWICH (2) 3 (Talbot, Mills, Wark)
W.B.A. (0) 1 (Brown, T., pen.)
 at Highbury 50,922
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Talbot (Lambert), Hunter, Beattie, Osborne, Wark, Mariner, Turner, Woods.
 W.B.A.: Godden; Mulligan, Statham, Brown (T), Wile (Cunningham), Robertson, Martin, Brown (A), Regis, Trewick, Johnston.

ORIENT (0) 0
ARSENAL (2) 3 (Macdonald 2, Rix)
 at Stamford Bridge 49,698
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Hoadley, Roeder, Clarke, Gray (Banjo), Mayo, Kitchen, Bennett.
 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Rix, Macdonald, Stapleton, Hudson.

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (0) 2 (Gallagher, Francis)
NORWICH (0) 1 (Reeves) 20,858
 Birmingham: Montgomery; Calderwood, Pendrey, Towers, Gallagher, Howard, Page, Francis, Bertschin, Hibbitt (Connolly), Fox.
 Norwich: Hansbury; Peters, Sullivan, Ryan, Jones, Powell, Neighbour, Suggett, Paddon, Reeves, Lythgoe.

COVENTRY (1) 3 (Thompson, Wallace, Green)
EVERTON (1) 2 (Latchford, Lyons) 26,025
 Coventry: Blyth; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Coop, Green, Wallace, Thompson (Osgood), Powell, Hutchison.
 Everton: Wood; Jones, Pejic, Lyons, Darracott (Telfer), Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, McKenzie, Thomas.

DERBY (2) 3 (Masson, Daly, Ryan)
WOLVES (1) 1 (Patching) 20,836
 Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Powell, McFarland, Todd, Curran, Daly, Masson, George, Ryan.
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daley, Hazell, McAlle, Patching, Brazier, Richards, Rafferty, Kelly (Daly).

LEEDS (1) 1 (Graham)
WEST HAM (1) 2 (Martin, Hales) 22,953
 Leeds: Harvey; Reaney, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Lorimer, Gray (E), Currie, Harris, Graham.
 West Ham: Ferguson; Bonds, Brush, Martin, Taylor (T), Green, Curbishley, Holland, Hales, Brooking, Robson.

LIVERPOOL (1) 3 (Smith 2, Lee)
LEICESTER (1) 2 (White, Hughes pen.) 42,979
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Smith, Thompson, Kennedy, Hughes, Dalglish, Case, Johnson (Lee), McDermott, Souness.
 Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Williams, Woollett, Sims, Webb, White, Hughes, Smith (Davies), Goodwin, Salmons.

MAN. UTD. (1) 3 (Pearson 2, 1 pen., Grimes)
Q.P.R. (0) 1 (Bowles pen.) 42,677
 Man. U: Stepney; Grenhoff (B), Houston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Jordan, Pearson, Grimes, McCreery.
 Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Perkins, Shanks, Busby, Wallace, Bowles, McGee (James).

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 (Ramage, Cummins)
BRISTOL C. (0) 0 14,667
 Middlesbrough: Brown; Craggs, Bailey, Mahoney, Boam, Ramage, Mills, Cummins, Shearer, McAndrew, Armstrong.
 Bristol C: Shaw; Stevens, Gillies, Gow, Rodgers, Merrick, Whitehead (Mabbutt), Ritchie, Royle, Cormack, Mann.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Burns, pen.)
ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Evans) 17,203
 Newcastle: Mahoney; Blackhall, Kennedy, Barton, Nattrass, Nulty, Barrowclough, Burns, McGhee, Callaghan (Larnach), Scott.
 Villa: Rimmer; Gregory, Smith, Phillips, McNaught, Mortimer, Deehan, Little, Evans, Cowans, Carrodus.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKBURN (0) 0
BRIGHTON (0) 1 (Potts) 10,178
 Blackburn: Butcher; Hird, Bailey, Metcalfe, Keeley, Waddington, Brotherton, Radford, Lewis, Parkes, Wagstaffe.
 Brighton: Steele; Tiler, Williams, Horton, Winstanley, Lawrenson, Townner, Ward, Poskett, Clark (Ruggiero), Potts.

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Wilson)
STOKE (1) 1 (O'Callaghan) 12,261
 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Milligan, Tong, McEwan, Suddaby, Chandler (Groves), Ainscow, Wilson, Hatton, Waldron.
 Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Dodd, Waddington, Richardson, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Busby.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.
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Features: We single-out the sharpshooters to watch for in the World Cup + Special interview with Laszlo Fazekas, the captain of World Cup qualifiers Hungary, whose team play England in a friendly at Wembley on Wednesday, May 24th + England manager Ron Greenwood talking about the Hungary game and his plans for the future + Ray Clemence, putting the emphasis on the Scotland v England climax to the British Championship + How Nottm. Forest won the Championship + Preview of the European Championship game, Denmark v Republic of Ireland + All the Football League results for 1977-78 + Why Leicester City went down, and why Sunderland missed promotion + Several 'player pieces', including Jim Blyth (Coventry) and Derrick Parker (Southend).

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"SCORING goals is my game," said Wrexham's Dixie McNeil, the man who started his career at Leicester and topped Exeter's goalscoring charts as a 19-year-old youngster.

Later he became the Football League's top scorer with 31 goals in season 1974/75 and 35 in season 1975/76. In 1976/77, as Hereford crumbled to the Third Division, he topped United's list for the third successive season, having notched 19. Before that he was Lincoln's top marksman for two seasons. Last term he topped 28 in League and Cup for Hereford and Wrexham.

"I don't think you can develop goalscoring skills. You've either got them or you haven't. You can probably practice with somebody crossing balls and things like that, also turning quickly in tight spaces. To put it simply, it's a

new stand has been in use, but the facilities are first class.

"It is a well supported club — there's no doubt about that. Last season, when we won promotion as Third Division Champions we had crowds of 15,000 to 17,000, so obviously the potential is there for bigger gates next season. I don't think Wrexham have ever been in the Second Division, so I hope the people will relish a higher standard of football.

"As you know Arfon Griffiths is the player-manager. There's not much you can say about him except to repeat he's a first class player and a heck of a manager.

"When he bought me Arfon told me he'd seen me play, obviously, and to go out and perform as per normal. He thought I'd blend into the side and, touch wood, I scored goals; that's always been my main objective.

'Up with Wrexham instead of relegation with Hereford'



— DIXIE McNEIL

"There are players at Wrexham with vast stores of experience. Dai Davies, the 'keeper, plays for the current Welsh team. John Roberts, Les Cartwright, Micky Thomas, Gareth Davis — they're all Welsh internationals. Davis, the club captain, has been there a long time. In fact, you can go right through the team for experience and know-how."

"I was proud to have helped the club to promotion in 1977-78. I know they were bitterly disappointed at missing out last year.

"My father helped me along the way as much as anybody. He was a big influence and still is. He was a local centre-forward who was good in the air, and they named him Dixie. I can only assume he got it from the legendary Dixie Dean and it's been handed down to me.

"I used to like Denis Law. I think he's probably the best footballer I've ever seen. And Ipswich's Kevin Beattie is the best defender I've played against.

"My breakthrough came after I left Exeter on a disappointing free transfer and joined Corby in the Southern League. From there I went to Northampton and manager Dave Bowen gave me a chance. The first season he played me in midfield, then he started to play me up-front and I've never looked back since."

What is the next target for Dixie? "Winning promotion with Wrexham again next season. After that, well, who knows?"

"Arfon Griffiths didn't play for Wales until he was 30. Tony Book didn't play in the First Division for Manchester City until he was in his late 20's, and he came from Plymouth via a non-League club."

'I should have scored 50 goals for Brentford'

— STEVE PHILLIPS

SMALL in size — big in goals. That's the story of little Steve Phillips, the man whose goals thrust Brentford into Division Three in the 1977-78 season.

Phillips scored 36 to lift The Bees into exalted company near the top of the Fourth Division table for most of last season. Yet the biggest irony of all was he had been bought for just £5,000 by Brentford manager Bill Dodgin — and told by both Birmingham City and Northampton Town, his previous clubs, he was too small to be a top goalscorer.

Too small? Certainly, you won't find 5' 6" Phillips out-jumping giant centre-halves inside the penalty-box. You won't see him barging off big defenders or heading super-goals from set pieces. But if you watched the Griffin Park club all season, you did see little Steve Phillips whacking the ball into the back of the net with astonishing regularity.

Consistently

Goals? They're Phillips' business. He says: "I've always scored regularly but it's just everyone thought I was too small to do well consistently. I scored about 20-plus most seasons I was at Birmingham City but they thought I wasn't big enough to be a success."

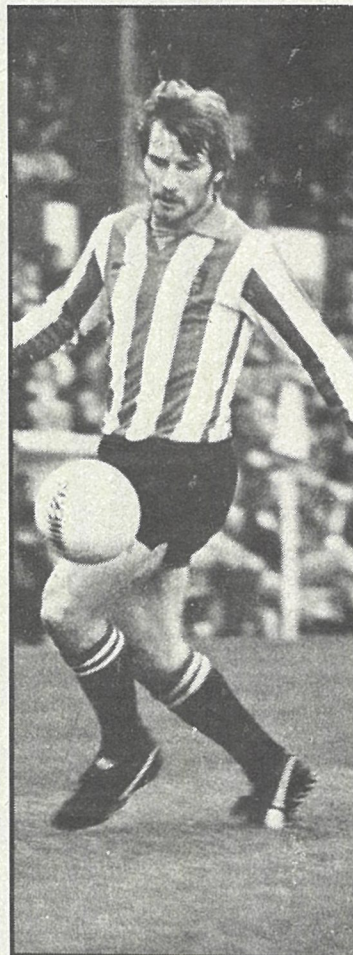
"It was the same story at Northampton. I didn't do much there after Bill Dodgin had gone and it was only the fact he had joined Brentford as manager, I signed for the London club. No Dodgin, it would have been no Phillips."

"I rate the man very highly and I know he believes in my ability. He's got a great approach to football — takes all the pressure off you. It's much easier to relax and do well."

Phillips has a valid point when he says: "My size doesn't bother me at all. Of course, I have to get a service to my feet but if the ball is played there, defences are in trouble."

"Last season, I played off big Andy McCulloch down the middle. He knocked the high centres down for me to snap up the chances and it worked ever so well. Andy was also in the goals last season. He managed to score 22 in the League as we pushed for promotion. I think we can do it next season, too. I fancy our chances of doing well again."

Phillips believes, incredibly enough, he missed more chances than scored goals. But, he finished the term with an incredible haul of 36 goals. "If I'd taken only half the chances I missed," says Phillips, "I would have scored at least 50 last season."



"I believe goalscoring becomes a habit after a while. You just go out expecting to score goals and if you've got that attitude, I think you're bound to get among the goals. A lot of luck is involved."

"Sometimes, I've played in games where I've struck shots brilliantly; absolutely spot-on. But the ball has either hit someone and been deflected or hit a post or brought a brilliant save from the goalkeeper."

"Then, in the next game, I've mis-hit two shots, not connected at all properly — and got two goals. A lot of goalscoring is down to luck."

Phillips played some games in midfield. But as he adds: "I am always looking to get into the box among the action. You'll only score goals from inside the box; it's no good hoping to get them well outside because it's very rare to do that."

"But I'm happy with the way things have gone. People can call me small, too small if they like. But the goals do the talking for me."

matter of reading the game in the penalty-box. That's how I look at it."

What made Dixie join Wrexham on 23rd September for £60,000?

"It was obvious they are an ambitious club. Also, I thought a change would do me good. I'd been at Hereford for three years and there was the question of the fee. United wanted the cash and that was the selling point."

"I made my debut for Wrexham at home to Swindon. We won 2-1 and I scored the first goal."

"I had regrets at leaving Hereford. My wife had settled down and I'd always done well. I'd known the joys of promotion and I was quite happy at Edgar Street, but I'm glad I made the switch, especially as events turned out. Instead of going up into the Second I'd have been on my way down to the Fourth Division."

"The set up is very good at Wrexham and, when they get the ground improved, it will be better still. I don't know how long the

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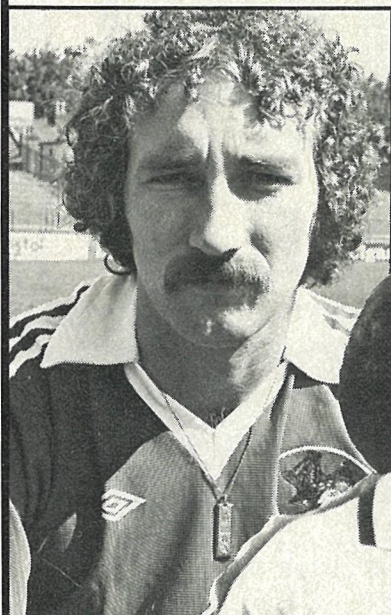
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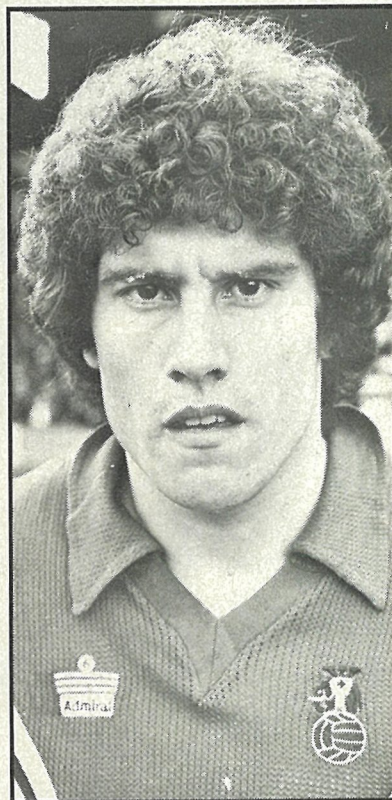
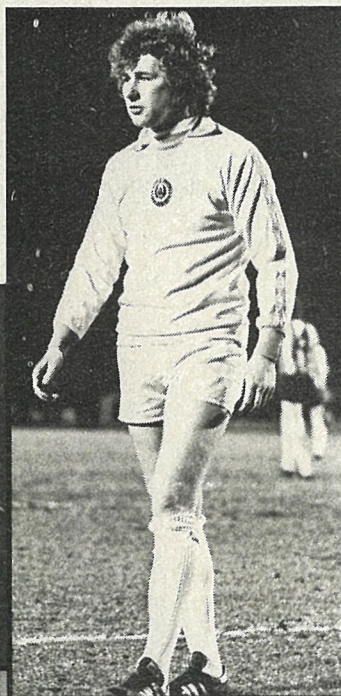


FULL NAME: Martin Stanford Peters
BIRTHPLACE: Plaistow, East London
BIRTHDATE: 8th November, 1943
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 12st 4lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: West Ham United, Tottenham
MARRIED: Yes to Kathy
CHILDREN: Girl Lee Ann 12 years and boy Grant 8 years
CAR: Audi
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Bobby Charlton
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAMS: West Ham and Tottenham
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Too many to mention
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: World Cup Final, 1966
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning the above
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to West Germany in Leon during the 1970 World Cup Finals
BEST COUNTRIES VISITED: Switzerland and Norway
FAVOURITE FOOD: Dover Sole
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: All sports
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoking
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Sports programmes and The Two Ronnies
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Bread
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Jack Lemon and Shirley MacLaine
BEST FRIEND: My wife
BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON CAREER: Ron Greenwood and Sir Alf Ramsey
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Injuries
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 67 full England caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be a successful manager
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: As above
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Thames Lighterman
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Chairman of my first managerial club or Miss Piggy of Muppets fame

FOOTBALL'S FRIZZ

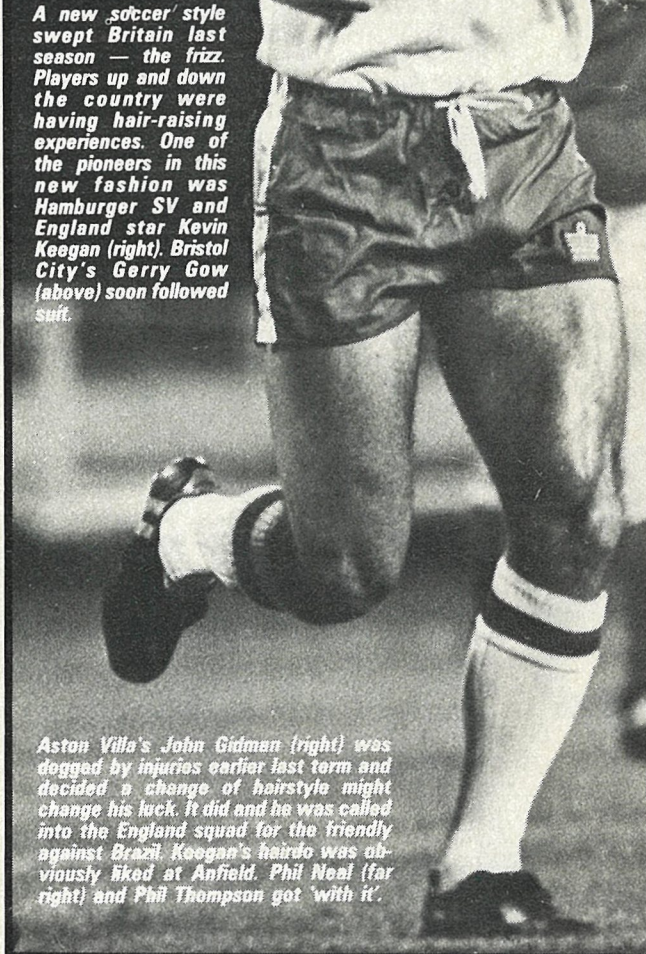


FRIZZ



A new 'soccer' style swept Britain last season — the frizz. Players up and down the country were having hair-raising experiences. One of the pioneers in this new fashion was Hamburger SV and England star Kevin Keegan (right). Bristol City's Gerry Gow (above) soon followed suit.

It wasn't long before Scotland heard about the new craze. Partick's Alan Rough (above, left) will be taking the frizz to Argentina in June. Snap! Coventry City's Keith Osgood (above).



Aston Villa's John Gidman (right) was dogged by injuries earlier last term and decided a change of hairstyle might change his luck. It did and he was called into the England squad for the friendly against Brazil. Keegan's hairdo was obviously liked at Anfield. Phil Neal (far right) and Phil Thompson got 'with it'.

Tartan Talk

JOHN GREIG

ALL Scotland is buzzing at the moment about the British Championship which starts on Saturday and, of course, the World Cup Finals in Argentina next month.

It's been difficult, in fact, impossible not to come across a story in the daily Press about the loss of form, the nagging injury etc etc of one of our World Cup pool.

Okay, let's get a couple of things

never let Scotland down. What goes on behind the scenes at the Baseball Ground is unlikely to hit their form when they put on that dark blue jersey.

Alan Rough, too, has come in for criticism. He was blamed for two of the goals Aberdeen put past him in Partick Thistle's 4-2 Scottish Cup Semi-Final defeat and again everyone was saying he was the weak link in the Scottish side.

The big Thistle man, to his credit, came out the next day and took all responsibility for Thistle's Cup exit. That shows character and Alan has proved he has it in abundance.

He, too, has never blundered while representing his country. I'll never forget that wonderful tip-over save from John Toshack in the vital

World Cup match at Anfield. The score was 0-0 at the time and had that one gone in Scotland's chances of reaching Argentina might have been seriously jeopardised.

I say we should lay off Alan and let him get on with the game. He doesn't have to prove himself at international level for surely he has already done that.

Scotland have reached the Finals on merit. Players such as Sandy Jardine, Tom Forsyth, Gordon McQueen, Martin Buchan, Asa Hartford, Archie Gemmill, Kenny Dalglish and Joe Jordan are among the best in the world. And they'll prove it in South America.

A quick word, too, about Derek Johnstone, the man who terrorises defences with his superb ability in the air. He has won the Player of the Year award from the Scottish Press

and no one can say he doesn't deserve it. He has had a brilliant season and I obviously hope it continues for years to come for both club and country.

And now a big thank you to everyone who turned up for the match against the Scottish Select. A crowd of 65,000 was there and I was overwhelmed by their response. You really made my day.

People have talked about me picking up something like £75,000 tax free, but I honestly haven't even thought about the money. The gesture is the main thing and that has been greatly appreciated.

It was good, too, for myself to be able to present Mr Derry of Bells Scotch whisky, with a clock to show my gratitude to his firm who backed my game at Ibrox. I just wish I could thank everyone individually. I can't obviously, but I hope everyone knows how I feel. Thanks again.

And how will Scotland fare in the Championship? We have won the trophy on the last two occasions and I don't see us failing to make it a hat-trick considering all the games are at Hampden.

See you all in a fortnight...

John Greig

'Send Rangers to Argentina in Scotland's place?'

straight. I had a close look at some of our international stars during my testimonial match at Ibrox last month. The scoreline read: Rangers 5, Scottish Select 0.

That may have made happy reading in places such as Holland, Peru and Iran, but, as far as I am concerned, that result will in no way affect Scotland in Argentina. Why on earth should it?

Some fans have told me Rangers should be sent to South America in the international team's place! It's nice to appreciate such loyalty, but we must keep the game at Ibrox in its right perspective. First, I thought Rangers played very well and it was good for yours truly to score two of our goals.

Secondly, I think the result might have been different if there was something really at stake. The Scottish side eased off a little. Let's face it, there is no country in the world who could take five goals off Ally MacLeod's men in a truly competitive match.

There seems to be concern about our midfield which was being hailed as one of the best in the world not that long ago.

Maybe Bruce Rioch and Don Masson have gone off the boil for their club side Derby, but they have



John Greig presents Bell's UK Sales Director, Tony Derry, with a beautiful carriage clock after his firm sponsored Greig's testimonial.

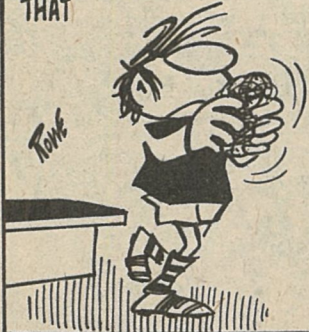
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HEY! DON'T SAY I'M TOO LATE FOR THE DUSTBIN!



NO, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, COME AND JUMP IN!



A FEW months ago in SHOOT I said I did not want to leave Manchester United.

At the time I meant it. I was happy at Old Trafford and fully prepared to play out my contract.

My wife Jackie, baby Kerry and I were very contented with life in the North.

Then manager Dave Sexton told me I would have to change my style, and adopt a more defensive role.

United still expected me to score my 20 goals a season — and help to stop 20 going in at the other end! They wanted to have their cake and eat it.

Mr. Sexton felt I allowed my marker to come through unchallenged at times adding his weight to the opposition's attack.

Now I've made no secret I'm the world's worst tackler, although I did try to adapt my approach for United. Unfortunately it never really came off . . . I just couldn't mentally change my natural game.

To my critics I say: "Were Denis Law and Jimmy Greaves good defenders?"

Don't think for one minute I'm putting myself in their class. I'm just using them as examples of natural goalscorers who did very little else but put the ball in the net regularly.

I honestly felt I was making a useful contribution to United and was quite pleased with my goalscoring form. Yet it wasn't considered good enough.

Someone suggested I relied on penalties to boost my goals tally. All

I can point to in my defence is my record.

Since joining United in November, 1975, I played in 132 League and Cup matches and scored 51 goals. Of that total EIGHT were from the penalty-spot. And some of those were vital point-savers.

Conceded? No! Just stating the facts.

As the season wore on I was substituted more and more. If things weren't going right on the field it seemed I was the one to blame for the lack of success.

When I was pulled off against Arsenal at Highbury on April 1st, my birthday, I made up my mind to seek a meeting with Dave Sexton. After all, my future was at stake.

Mr. Sexton said he'd see me at Old Trafford on Friday, April 7th, the day after he arrived back with the England Under-21's from Italy.

We'd never really had a chance to have a heart-to-heart before then, so I didn't know what to expect or how best to approach him. I decided to express my feelings honestly and to the point.

Certain newspapers suggested Mr. Sexton and I had a heated confrontation in his office that erupted into a blazing row. Untrue!

Our meeting was far from a stormy verbal punch-up. We spoke man-to-man. I put my point of view, Mr. Sexton stated his.

First he told me I was in the team to play Q.P.R. at Old T. the following day. Then Mr. Sexton went on



Player-power didn't force Gordon out.

to say he didn't feel I was pulling my weight, or committing myself to the team.

I said I didn't feel in the right frame of mind and couldn't adapt my style as he wanted.

We then mutually agreed it was best we parted company. And that was that. It was all over in five minutes.

I left Old Trafford and drove home in a daze. I couldn't believe what had happened.

One minute I was playing for the most glamorous and best-sup-

ported club in the land . . . the next, on my way out.

This was a situation I had never faced before. How would it end?

That weekend was the worst in my life. I sat at home brooding and inconsolable. The phone never stopped . . . the pressure built up. I couldn't sit down and relax. I never slept. I felt in a state of limbo, worrying what the future held.

Then news filtered through my old boss Tommy Docherty wanted me for Derby County.

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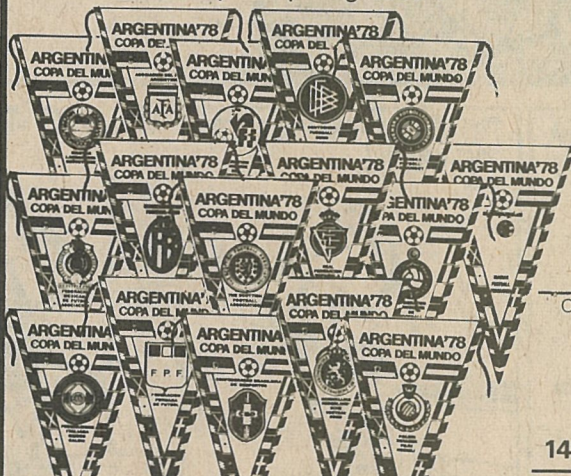
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'It had to be Derby — or I'd have gone to the States'

were also reported to be interested. While it was all very flattering being linked with such famous clubs, I knew it had to be Derby and The Doc.

He was the man who brought me to United from Millwall and made me a star.

I knew him and his ways. What made him tick. We get along and have a mutual respect for each other.

Tommy has his critics, but for me the man is magic.

Chelsea, Aston Villa, Man. United ... all have benefited from The Doc's special kind of medicine.

I said in my column at the time of The Doc's departure from Old T I might one day be playing for him again. I certainly didn't dream it would be so soon.

For a while, though, it appeared Derby and United wouldn't come to terms and the deal looked off.

I was so upset I thought about leaving League football and going to the States. Yes, it had to be Derby — or I'd have to quit the country.

Thank goodness I didn't have to make that decision. United finally agreed the £275,000 move could take place on Derby's terms.

I signed over dinner and the obligatory glass of champagne at Mottram Hall Hotel in Cheshire, United's out-of-town headquarters during Doc's days at the club.

Only one thing would have made me think twice about signing for County ... if one of the big London

clubs had come in for me.

To be honest, I was a little surprised and disappointed none of the capital's First Division clubs made an inquiry.

They didn't, so that's an end of it. I'm a Derby County player now and proud of it. I'm happy at the thought of helping them to get among the honours again ... and I've got peace of mind for the first time in months.

But more about my new club next week.

Naturally I'm sad to leave Manchester United. But contrary to reports — **THERE WAS NO VENDETTA AGAINST ME AT OLD TRAFORD.**

Sure, it's true to say I didn't see eye-to-eye with a couple of the players, but there was no organised dressing-room campaign to force me out.

There's nothing to be gained by naming the players who didn't like me and were glad to see the back of me.

I've certainly no wish to wage a war of words with United. I do not want to say anything that's likely to stir up trouble and possibly tarnish the reputation of a club I still have the greatest of respect for.

I honestly wish them, Dave Sexton, and ALL the players well for the future.

A successful United is good for the game in Britain. I believe that while I was at Old T ... I still do and hope it happens next season.

The people I will miss most at United are the fans. In my two-and-a-half year spell at the club they were magic, not only to me personally but the whole team.

I only hope I can one day earn the same affection from the supporters at the Baseball Ground.

I received hundreds of letters following my move and most of them said they were sorry to see me leave United.

Thank you for those letters. Your kind words helped to keep my spirits alive during the most traumatic period of my career.

Good luck you lads at Old T ... keep cheering for The Reds. See you again next season.

Gordon Hill

Together again ... Gordon signs for The Doc and Derby.



my soccer scene
**GORDON
HILL**

SHOOT takes a look at the club form of the players who hope to win the World Cup for Scotland

GORDON McQUEEN (Manchester United)

It's not been a happy season for McQueen, what with his troubles at Leeds and the controversial transfer to United. Still, Gordon's a good pro and won't let things get on top of him. He's taken a while to settle down with United, but

towards the end of the season showed up well. He's less of a stranger to the Scotland team, though, and there is no reason to suppose his international form will dip.

ALAN ROUGH (Partick Thistle)

He was rested by Partick recently — and came back to concede five against Celtic and the same v. Dundee United! "Scruff" hasn't been having the happiest of times this year: his form against Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup Semi-Finals must have given Ally MacLeod food for thought. Rough has never let Scotland down, but the question marks that have



always hung over him are still very much there.

WILLIE JOHNSTON (West Brom)

The Scotland winger may be 31, yet has lost none of his speed and will be a handful for defences in Argentina. MacLeod has no worries over Willie's form — only his fiery temperament. West Brom manager Ron Atkinson even rested Johnston in one game to ensure he wouldn't be booked and therefore miss the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals! Still, Willie hasn't been sent-off over the past season, so perhaps he HAS learned to control his temper.

KENNY DALGLISH (Liverpool)

When Ally MacLeod picks his Scotland teams, the name of Kenny Dalglish must be the first one down. The Liverpool forward has been in tremendous form ever since his transfer from Celtic last summer. Dalglish is now one of the most complete players in

PROGRESS REPORT ON ALLY'S ARMY



ABOVE ... Don Masson's Derby form has been poor.

TOP OF PAGE ... It hasn't been a very happy season for Gordon McQueen.

RIGHT ... Alan Rough conceded ten goals in two games!



Europe and could be Scotland's ace in Argentina.

JOE JORDAN (Manchester United)

Jordan has never been a regular scorer — about one every four or five games — but this season must be one of his unhappiest. Upon joining United, big Joe was in the embarrassing situation of having more yellow cards than goals this season. All told, his tally of League goals was only half a dozen. Joe's strength has been to make goals as well as score them, but even so one would have liked a better return from the Scotland striker. Against Continentals, Jordan's physical presence is very intimidating, but MacLeod must be just a little worried with Joe's form.

ARCHIE GEMMILL (Nottm. Forest)

In terms of consistency, wee Archie is probably Britain's top midfield man over the past season. His contribution to Forest's Championship victory cannot be minimised and he made a successful international comeback to captain Scotland against Bulgaria in February. At 31, Gemmill is playing better than ever.

ASA HARTFORD
(Manchester City)

While his form has been consistent, so has his bad behaviour — he collected nine yellow cards last season! Hartford's strength is his competitiveness, but he must learn to channel all his aggression into his football.

BRUCE RIOCH
(Derby County)

Rioch has not shown the form that made him one of Britain's top midfielders since joining Derby from Everton earlier this season. He had a huge bust-up with Tommy Docherty and like Derby, hasn't really been in top gear this year.

DON MASSON
(Derby County)

His club form has been decidedly poor and even Tommy Docherty has criticised Masson and Rioch for "having their eyes on Argentina." Can Masson suddenly find his best form for his country? If he can't, this will create a problem MacLeod can do without.

TOM FORSYTH
(Rangers)

A player who has been a model of consistency for his country. A lot of critics say that the rugged defender plays better for Scotland than he does for Rangers. That can't be bad for he has just finished a season being one of the Ibrox side's top players! Forsyth has a good understanding with McQueen. In their first international together they went for too many of the same balls and their styles clashed. Thankfully, they have sorted this out and could be a defensive duo to make things extremely difficult for opponents.

GRAEME SOUNESS
(Liverpool)

At the beginning of the season Souness stood only an outside chance of going to Argentina. His transfer to Liverpool changed all that. Souness is a different player now and his style seems suited to the international scene. Scotland

have had a strong midfield for three or four years, yet the inclusion of the "unknown" and cultured Souness could boost their World Cup chances even more.

LOU MACARI
(Manchester United)

Macari is one of those valuable midfield players always likely to score a goal and he weighed in with his share for United last term. The changes in the United line-up unsettled most of the players for a while, but little Lou was still buzzing at the end of the season.

SANDY JARDINE
(Rangers)

Very experienced defender with a fine turn of speed. Jardine has had very few below-par games for Rangers and now that Danny McGrain is out of the squad, Jardine will be first choice right-back, most likely.

MARTIN BUCHAN
(Manchester United)

Arguably United's most important player, the team never seems the same when their captain's absent. MacLeod will no doubt be delighted Buchan and McQueen are playing together regularly; that can only help Scotland. It's not been an easy season for The Reds, yet Buchan has maintained the high standard he's set himself.



RIGHT ... Joe Jordan's aggression is effective against Continentals.
TOP RIGHT ... Tom Forsyth — Mr. Reliability.



WILLIE DONACHIE
(Manchester City)

He's had a steady season for City and even though he's banned from the opening World Cup tie against Peru, there seems little doubt Donachie will regain his place. Willie is one of those steady players you always expect to play well, and he rarely lets you down.

KENNY BURNS
(Nottingham Forest)

The English Press's Player of the Year, and that speaks volumes for the one-time "bad boy" of soccer. He has calmed down a lot and impressed the Scottish manager. His versatility could be invaluable in South America. He can play in a variety of roles with ease and assurance. Kenny has proved this season that his temperamental nature has been curbed.

DEREK JOHNSTONE
(Rangers)

Scotland's top goalscorer and Player of the Year last season and the versatile Johnstone is also very effective in defence. This makes him a very valuable squad member — the sort of player you can bring on to win a game or contain a lead.

STUART KENNEDY
(Aberdeen)

This overlapping full-back was brought to Pittodrie by MacLeod and could cause a surprise by forcing his way into the side. He made his debut against Bulgaria a few months ago.

JOHN ROBERTSON
(Nottingham Forest)

His selection surprised some, as the Forest winger has gone off the boil a little in the second-half of the season through being forced to play a deeper role. Robertson obviously did enough earlier in the campaign to convince MacLeod he could do a job for him.

JIM BLYTH
(Coventry City)

Blyth has had an extremely good season for The Sky Blues, hardly having a poor game. He's safe, rather than spectacular, and has saved City quite a few points with his skills. Could even oust Rough as Scotland's number one 'keeper.

JOE HARPER
(Aberdeen)

An experienced and deadly penalty-box player. The Pittodrie side's top scorer, whose form is well known to MacLeod. He can score goals out of nothing... and the value of that commodity is something that is never debated.

BOBBY CLARK
(Aberdeen)

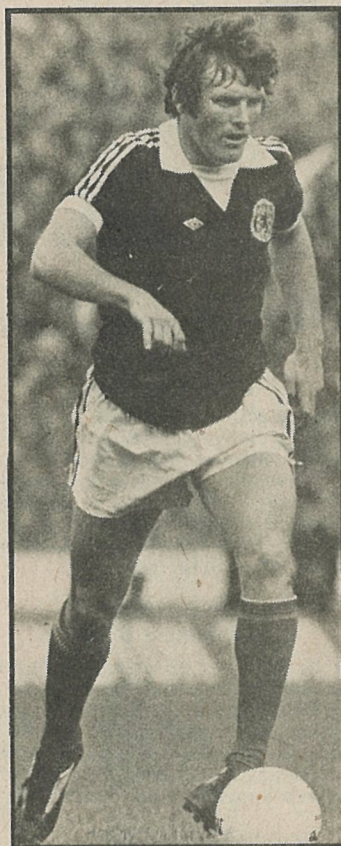
Just completed one of his most consistent seasons. Has played competently and confidently throughout the year. There have been no complaints from manager Billy McNeill, and his 'keeper's experience could be vital in South America. If he is called upon he will not disappoint the Scots. Ally McLeod certainly knows his qualities for he was his boss at Pittodrie.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S quiz time

Answer the following questions about the British Championship.

1. England beat Northern Ireland 2-1 in Belfast last season. Did Mike Channon, Dennis Tueart or Paul Mariner score their late winning goal?

2. (a) Ray Clemence (England), (b) Pat Jennings (Northern Ireland), (c) Eddie Gray (below, Scotland) and (d) John Roberts (Wales) made their international debuts against other Home countries... which?



3. The last time Scotland played Northern Ireland in Belfast was in 1969-70, 1970-71 or 1971-72?

4. Which Home country were the first side to beat England — in 1967 — after they had won the World Cup in 1966?

5. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of one of the managers of the four countries... KIEM MHSTI.

6. Can you give the Christian names of the two Blanchflower brothers who both played for Northern Ireland during the 1950's and early 1960's?

7. Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish appeared 45, 46 or 47 times for Scotland while with his former club Celtic?

8. The first time England entertained Wales at Wembley Stadium was in 1952, 1953 or 1954 when they won 3-0, 4-1 or 5-2?

9. True or false? (a) Northern Ireland's Jimmy Nicholl (below, left) appeared in two out of three British Championship games last season, (b) Wales scored two goals in their three matches, (c) Don Revie was England manager during the Championship and (d) Scotland scored maximum points in clinching the title last term?

10. Have Scotland and Northern Ireland ever met in either the World Cup qualifying rounds or the actual Finals?

11. (a) 16, 17 or 18 Evans's have appeared in the red shirt of Wales, (b) 13, 14 or 15 Thomson's for Scotland, (c) Six, seven or eight Scott's for Northern Ireland and (d) 18, 19 or 20 Smith's for England?

12. Tottenham's Peter Taylor (right) scored in his first full game for England against which Home country in May, 1976?

13. Dave Thomas (Everton), John Emanuel (Newport), Ronnie Blair (Oldham Athletic) and Jim Holton (Coventry City) are international players. Which plays for (a) Northern Ireland, (b) Scotland, (c) England and (d) Wales?

14. Who was manager of Scotland before Ally MacLeod took over the reins?

15. He began his League career with Burnley, and while with that club he made his international debut against Czechoslovakia in October, 1971. He moved to Derby County and then on to a London club. During last season's British Championship he scored the winning goal against England at Wembley. Has appeared over 35 times for his country. Can you identify him?



ANSWERS

1. Dennis Tueart. 2. (a) Wales, (b) Wales, (c) Wales, (d) Wales. 3. 1970-71. 4. Scotland. 5. MIKES. 6. James and John. 7. 46. 8. 1952. 9. (a) True, (b) False, (c) True, (d) True. 10. No. 11. (a) 18, (b) 13, (c) 14, (d) 16. 12. Wales. 13. (a) Blair, (b) Holton, (c) Thomas, (d) Emanuel. 14. Willie Ormond. 15. Q.P.R.'s Leighton James of Wales.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Viv Anderson. (8) Ion. (9) Colin. (10) Dream. (13) Essence. (15) Ores. (18) Ray Hankin. (21) In. (22) Soar. (23) Fleir. (25) Sit. (26) Little. (28) Trot. (30) Hen. (31) By. (32) Novel. (33) At. DOWN:— (1) Victoria. (2) Volley. (3) Nine. (4) Do. (5) Ends. (6) Seen. (7) Name. (11) Regis. (12) Act. (14) Sincil. (16) Ran. (17) Shilton. (19) North. (20) Orient. (23) Fir. (24) Rice. (25) Sty. (27) Lea. (29) To.

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THE FIRST Division in Scotland is first class! That is the undoubted reaction from the fans who witnessed a mammoth battle among Dundee, Hearts and Morton to squeeze into those two promotion places last season.

These three sides were involved in an intriguing, entertaining fight since the start of the season to clinch their places in the Premier Division.

There was a lot of strain and pressure on the players, but the managers felt it, too. Hearts' boss Willie Ormond (bottom of page) says without fuss: "If I managed four or five hours' sleep a night I was doing well."

Dundee's Tommy Gemmell (right, top) and eventual First Division Champions Morton's Benny Rooney (centre) were in the same boat. But three into two just cannot go and Tommy Gemmell was terribly disappointed at the end of the term.

"I suppose our missing promotion can be termed as failure and I suppose that is why managers get the sack," says Gemmell logically.

The Dens Park side have, in fact,

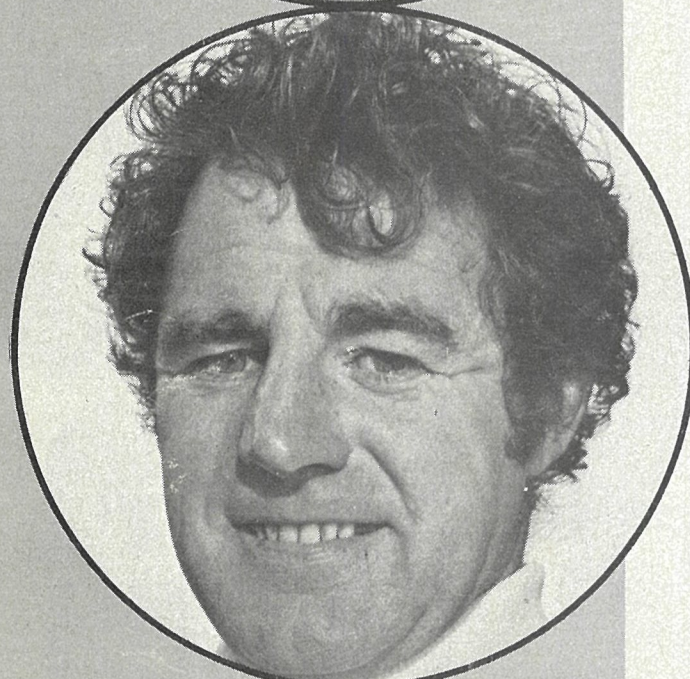
brought Andy Ritchie from Parkhead in exchange for goalkeeper Roy Baines, who is now Peter Latchford's understudy. Morton also received something like £10,000.

When Baines went to Celtic they freed Denis Connaghan and who earned rave notices in the Morton goal? That's right . . . the same Denis Connaghan!

The ex-Celt was in brilliant form when his side almost shocked Aberdeen in the Cup Quarter-Finals. They grabbed a 2-2 draw at Pittodrie and Aberdeen had five great scoring chances early in the game at Cappielow and five times they were defied by the agility and reflexes of Connaghan.

Eventually a well placed penalty-kick from John McMaster and an unstoppable drive from Ian Fleming broke Connaghan's resistance, but Dons boss Billy McNeill, who played in front of the 'keeper during his Celtic days, said: "I thought he was going to have one of those nights. He was brilliant."

Rooney has also collected £150,000



THE THREE WHO BATTLED FOR TWO PREMIER PLACES!

gone through a remarkable transition since Gemmell took over as boss from Davie White, the ex-Rangers manager who was axed.

He has been busy in the transfer market and Aberdeen, bossed by his old Celtic team-mate Billy McNeill, has been his main hunting ground for new talent. Tommy has brought former Aberdeen players such as Billy Williamson, who also had a spell with Dundee United, Jockey Scott, Bobby Glennie and Jim Shirra to Dens Park.

He also signed former international left-back Erich Schaedler, of Hibs, in a swap deal that took Bobby Hutchinson to Easter Road. Ian MacDougall cost £20,000 from Rangers and Gemmell has even given former Dumbarton striker Roy McCormack a chance to shine for Dundee.

McCormack, back after a spell in Australia, impressed Gemmell in training and Tommy was prepared to back his faith in the player by giving him a first team place.

Rooney, like Gemmell, a former Celtic player, also had some shrewd deals in the transfer market. He

from Newcastle United for tricky winger Mark McGhee, whom the Cappielow Park club signed on a free transfer from Bristol City only three years ago. He has been careful with his money, though. Rooney paid out only £10,000 for Motherwell's Jimmy Millar and he looks like being a great buy.

Hearts have also given youth its chance and left-sided midfield player Lawrence Tierney is one to look out for in the future. Walter Kydd, freed by Celtic, is also doing a good job at right-back.

The Edinburgh men haven't had the best of luck with injuries. Manager Ormond says: "It's just like a pack of cards. I keep shuffling them to come up with new formations."

So, there you are. Three teams who had one aim in mind . . . going up into the Premier. For Morton and Hearts — success. For Dundee disappointment for another term. Yet no one can accuse Tommy Gemmell of failure. He can be proud of what he's achieved at Dens Park.



West Ham and England midfielder Trevor Brooking (left) comes away from David Nish of Derby County.

SHOOT!